

NEW SWAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Welcome to the fourth season of **New Swan Shakespeare Festival**! The New Swan is a venue unique to Orange County, and indeed to the world of theatre. Our 15-ton, modular mini-Elizabethan theater was a dream of UC Irvine's Department of Drama in 1965 when the university was founded, and in the winter of 2011 this dream was brought to vivid life. Since the debut of our summer festival in 2012, we have run two classic Shakespearean plays in repertory each year, and last season debuted "Mozart Monday," which this year has extended to a series of three Monday night music offerings in August.

New Swan Shakespeare Festival is dedicated to the investigation and production of Shakespearean plays and relevant theatrical works. Shakespeare's theatre was of and for the people, rather than an elite cultural event; similarly, we wish to share our work with the widest possible cross-section of our community. It was also driven by the desire to create a direct, egalitarian relationship between actors and audience, which is what we aim to do in our intimate, viscerally engaging venue. We want our audience to *feel* the emotions, actions, and texts as deeply as do New Swan actors, directors, designers, and creative and production teams. While we honor the history and classicism of Shakespeare's works, we have no intention of producing them as museum pieces; rather, we are committed to recreating the immediacy of Shakespeare's work, and examining it through the lens of its relevance to the 21st century.

Summer 2015 brings us the Bard's classics *Macbeth* and *Much Ado About Nothing*, in keeping with our custom of offering one tragedy and one comedy per season. *Much Ado* also continues the festival's tradition of innovative and original staging, as director Beth Lopes sets the production in the post-war America of Rosie the Riveter. *Macbeth*, directed by New Swan's Artistic Director Eli Simon, will welcome Shakespearean master Jack Greenman in the title role. In addition, Music Mondays will bring us the all-female mariachi band Las Colibri, the jazz stylings of the Max Haymer Trio, and the return of last year's popular Mozart Monday.

Whether you are drawn by comedy, tragedy, fine acting, great music, the heft and tradition of Shakespeare's words, or simply by the allure of a night of fine entertainment under the stars, we hope to see you at **New Swan Shakespeare Festival** this summer!

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School of the Arts



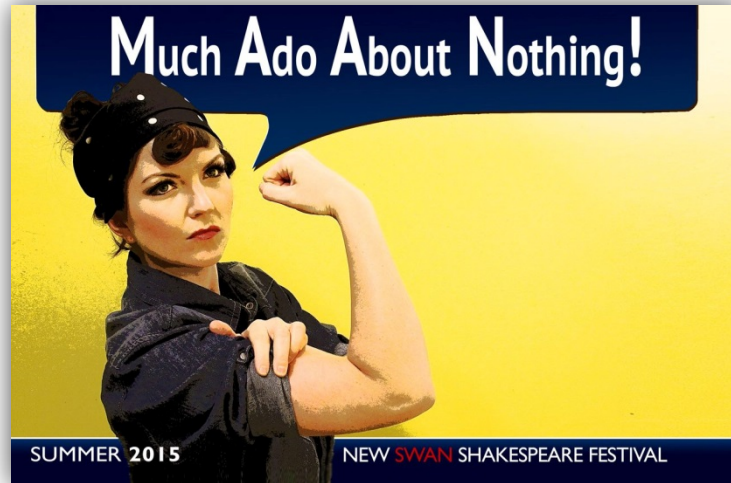
Macbeth
Eli Simon, *Director*

Eli Simon is the Artistic Director of New Swan Shakespeare Festival. A Chancellor's Professor of Acting in the Department of Drama, this marks Eli's 26th year at UC Irvine, where he has served as Head of Acting, and Chair of Drama. Eli is the author of three books: *The Art of Clowning*, *Masking Unmasked*, and *Power Speech*. He specializes in Shakespearean productions, clowning, musicals, and original masked performances. Eli has directed over 100 productions at major Shakespearean festivals, regional theatres, and international theaters across the states and overseas. Critically acclaimed productions include his original two-part clown saga – War of the Clowns and Clown Aliens – which is currently being produced by the National Theater of Romania in Cluj. Eli's original clown troupe, CLOWNZILLA, received rave reviews in California, Korea and Italy. His original commedia productions have enjoyed successful tours to international festivals in England, Spain, Korea, and Italy. For New Swan Shakespeare Festival, Eli has directed *The Merchant of Venice*, *King Lear*, and *Twelfth Night*.

Jack Greenman (Macbeth) has worked professionally for the last 20 years as an actor, educator, and voice and dialect coach. As an actor, he has performed with Utah Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Shakespeare Company, PCPA Theaterfest, GEVA Theater Center, South Coast Repertory Theatre, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Insight Out Theatre Collective, Strawberry Theatre Workshop, Centerpoint Theatre Group, Stage West in Fort Worth and at St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle. Representative roles from over 70 productions include Prospero in *The Tempest*, *Macbeth*, Peter Stockman in *An Enemy of the People*, Polixenes in *The Winter's Tale*, Thomas Becket in *Murder in the Cathedral*, The Ghost of Christmas Present in *A Christmas Carol*, Edward in *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, and John in *Oleanna*. He is a tenured professor in the Theatre Division at Southern Methodist University. In the last seven years, Jack has directed voice and dialects for more than 20 professional productions – most prominently at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, The Round House Theatre in Bethesda, Maryland, and the Tony Award winning Utah Shakespeare Festival.

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Much Ado About Nothing
Beth Lopes, Director

Beth Lopes is a Los Angeles-based theater director and teacher. She received a BFA in Drama from New York University and an MFA in Directing from UC Irvine. Beth is particularly drawn to ensemble driven pieces with heightened text and a sense of the fantastical. She is a highly collaborative director who believes in the connective power of theater and its ability to alter our individual and collective futures. Some of her recent projects include *The Hamlet Project* with Loose Canon Collective and the development of the new rock musical, *The Merry Lives of Windsor High*, with Los Angeles company mediaV. Upcoming, she's directing *The Winter's Tale* for San Antonio Shakespeare in the Park and is thrilled to return to the Swan with *Much Ado About Nothing*. Beth is a founding company member of New Swan Shakespeare Festival, having directed *The Comedy of Errors*, 2012 and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 2013.

Stephanie Newman (Beatrice) received her MFA from UC Irvine in 2009, and is currently the Director of Theatre Arts at UCC in Oregon, where she teaches, directs, designs, paints and constructs. Regional Acting Highlights: (as Stephanie Philo)- Pacific Conservatory Theatre (PCPA)- Sylvia, Sylvia; Masha, *The Three Sisters*; Lydia Languish, *The Rivals*; Julia, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*; Pamela et al, *The 39 Steps*. CO Springs Fine Arts Center- Catherine, *In the Next Room*. Chance Theater- Amy, Tape; Meg, *Little Women*. Transversal Theatre: Elvira, *Lumping in Fargo* (tour of Poland). SRT- Susan, *Woman in Mind*; Mrs. Potts, *Beauty & the Beast*; Mother Superior, *Agnes of God*. University Highlights: Titus, *Titus*; Agave, *The Bacchae*; Yvonne, *Sunday in the Park with George*; Barbara, *Dark of the Moon*; Nell, *Endgame*; Amanda, *The Glass Menagerie*; Edith Piaf, *Fetes de la Nuit*; Mistress Overdone, *Measure for Measure*. Directing: UCC- *Bus Stop*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Brownstone* (OR premiere), *Noises Off*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Merry Lives of Windsor High*, the *Oregon One-Acts*.

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NEW SWAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Music Monday Series

Mariachi Las Colibri | August 3, 2015

LAS COLIBRÍ or “The Hummingbirds,” have a passion for music, beauty, and girl power. These women are flying into new territory as one of the most unique ensembles of its genre by returning to the all string instrumentation of the early 20th century mariachi tradition and the colorful, feminine costumes of the Mexican cinematic divas of the 40s and 50s. After years of achieving much success individually as instrumentalists and vocalists in various professional arenas, these women have come together with their lovely blend of vocal harmonies, unique arrangements, and interpretation of traditional songs, huapangos, rancheras with a contemporary twist.



Max Haymer Jazz Trio | August 17, 2015

A proud alum of UC Irvine, **Max Haymer** has been lighting up the jazz world with his scintillating keyboard wizardry. Max was named a Rising Star by the Orange County Performing Arts Center. He has won 2nd prizes at the Montreux Jazz Festival Solo Piano Competition and the Great American Jazz Piano Competition in Florida. He was a finalist in the Horace Silver Piano Competition and UWF Phillips Jazz Piano Competition. After four great years in NYC, Max has returned to LA, working

extensively as a leader and side-man. The Max Haymer Trio appears regularly at the world famous Catalina Bar and Grill in Los Angeles.

Mozart Monday II | August 24, 2015

The **New Swan String Quartet** with Mitchell Newman & Rafi Rishik, violins; Ben Simon, viola; Gianna Abondolo, cello; and special guest David Howard, clarinet.

Program:

- Divertimento in D Major, K. 136
- Duo for Violin and Viola in Bb Major, K. 424
- Clarinet Quintet in A Major, K. 581



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NEW SWAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

WHEN & WHERE



**NEW SWAN
SHAKESPEARE
FESTIVAL**

2015 SEASON



**MUCH ADO
ABOUT NOTHING**

*O God, that I were a man!
I would eat his heart in the marketplace!*

WWII has ended, bringing home the victors and the vanquished, but for Beatrice and Benedick, the merry war of words has just begun.

JULY							AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					



MACBETH

It will have blood, they say. Blood will have blood.

Three witches spin a tale that hints at glory, and catches the brave Macbeth and his power thirsty wife in a bloody net.

JULY							AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30	31					

MUSIC MONDAYS

MARIACHI COLIBRI - all-female Mariachi band - August 3

MAX HAYMER JAZZ TRIO - with special guests - August 17

MOZART MONDAY II - New Swan String Quartet - August 24

MORE INFORMATION AND TICKETS
<http://www.newswanshakespeare.com/>
 949-824-8062
 Gateway Plaza, UCIrvine

Macbeth, Directed by Eli Simon

Dates: July 10, 12, 15, 18, 22, 24, 30 | August 6, 7, 9, 13, 15, 19, 22, 23, 27, 28, 30

Much Ado About Nothing, Directed by Beth Lopes

Dates: July 11, 14, 16, 17, 19, 23, 25, 26, 29, 31 | August 1, 2, 5, 8, 12, 14, 16, 20, 21, 26, 29

Mariachi Las Colibri, August 3 | Max Haymer Jazz Trio, August 17 | Mozart Monday II, August 24

All performances begin at 8:00pm

The New Swan Theater is located on the Gateway Plaza,
adjacent to Aldrich Park and Langson Library
on the campus of the University of California, Irvine.

Tickets may be purchased through our box office at:
(949) 824-2787 or online at www.arts.uci.edu/tickets

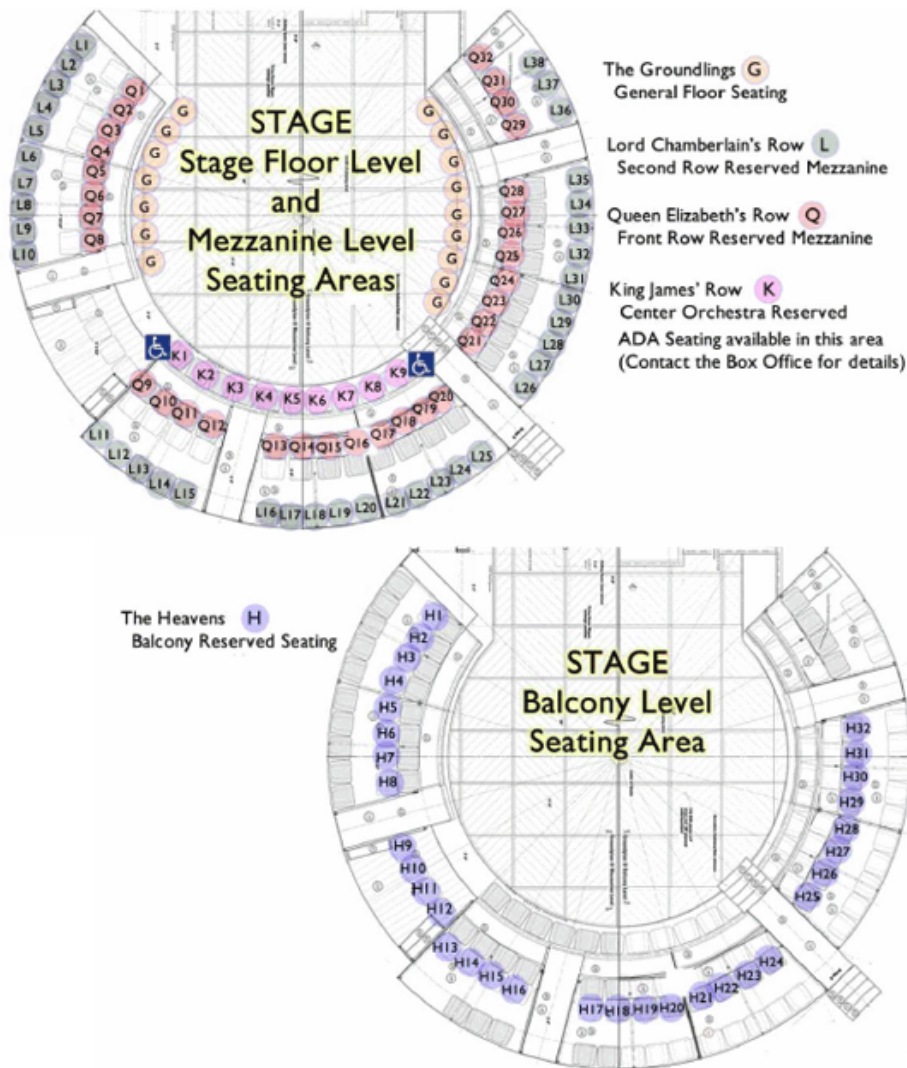
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NEW SWAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

SEATING CHART & PRICES



Friday – Saturday:

- ★ King James: \$59 (adult) \$54 (senior) \$54 (youth/student)
- ★ Queen Elizabeth's Row: \$49 (adult) \$44 (senior) \$44 (youth/student)
- ★ Lord Chamberlain's Row: \$44 (adult) \$39 (senior) \$39 (youth/student)
- ★ The Heavens: \$44 (adult) \$39 (senior) \$30 (youth/student)
- ★ The Groundlings: \$39 (adult) \$34 (senior) \$25 (youth/student)

Sunday – Thursday:

- ★ King James: \$50 (adult) \$45 (senior) \$45 (youth/student)
- ★ Queen Elizabeth's Row: \$40 (adult) \$35 (senior) \$35 (youth/student)
- ★ Lord Chamberlain's Row: \$35 (adult) \$30 (senior) \$30 (youth/student)
- ★ The Heavens: \$35 (adult) \$30 (senior) \$20 (youth/student)
- ★ The Groundlings: \$30 (adult) \$25 (senior) \$15 (youth/student)

* Music Mondays priced as Friday & Saturday Shakespeare shows.

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NEW SWAN SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY

As a member of our New Swan Shakespeare Society (NSSS) family you will receive a variety of benefits, including the opportunity to purchase pre-sale tickets, name season seats, receive invitations to pre-show talks and backstage tours, attend member-only events, and much more. See the following for giving levels:

Kind Member: \$100 – \$499

- The opportunity to purchase tickets before the general public
- Recognition in the Season Program

Venerable Benefactor: \$500 – \$999

- The opportunity to purchase tickets before the general public
- Recognition in the Season Program
- Name-a-Seat plaque prominently displayed at the New Swan Theater
- Invitation to attend first rehearsals and design presentations for both plays

Noble Warrior: \$1,000 – \$2,499

- The opportunity to purchase tickets before the general public
- Recognition in the Season Program
- Invitation to attend first rehearsals and design presentations for both plays
- 2 Name-a-Seat plaques prominently displayed at the New Swan Theater
- Season Program signed by 2015 NSSF cast

Heavenly Friar: \$2,500 – \$4,999

- The opportunity to purchase tickets before the general public
- Recognition in the Season Program
- Invitation to attend first rehearsals and design presentations for both plays
- Large Plaque prominently displayed at the New Swan Theater
- Season Program and Season Poster signed by NSSF cast

Wise Lord: \$5,000 – \$9,999

- Large Plaque prominently displayed at the New Swan Theater
- Season Program signed by NSSF cast
- Underwrite a production element of your choice – scenic, costumes, or props
- Have dinner with Artistic Director and Designer of your choice
- The opportunity to purchase tickets before the general public
- Recognition in the Season Program
- Invitation to attend first rehearsals and design presentations for both plays

Majestic Ruler: \$10,000

- Large Plaque prominently displayed at the New Swan Theater
- Prominent recognition in the Season Program
- Season Program and Season Poster signed by NSSF cast
- Underwrite a Professional Guest Actor
- Have dinner with the Artistic Director and your Professional Guest Actor
- The opportunity to purchase tickets before the general public
- Prominent recognition in the Season Program
- Invitation to attend all rehearsals and design presentations for both plays

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NEW SWAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

New Swan Show Producer – \$25,000

- Recognition on title page as Honorary Producer of Shakespearean play
- 4 VIP seats – 2 for each Shakespearean play
- Large Plaque prominently displayed at the New Swan Theater
- Acknowledgement from the Stage during pre-show announcements
- Dinner with Artistic Director and General Manager
- Prominent recognition on New Swan website
- The opportunity to purchase tickets before the general public
- Prominent recognition in the Season Program
- Invitation to attend all rehearsals and design presentations for both plays

New Swan Season Producer – \$50,000

- Recognition as Season Producer on title pages of both plays
- 8 VIP seats – 2 for each show for 2 full seasons
- Large Plaque prominently displayed on New Swan Theater
- Acknowledgement from the Stage during pre-show announcements
- Pre-show presentation for you, your family, and guests by Artistic Director
- Dinner with Artistic Director and Guest Artists
- Prominent recognition in perpetuity on the New Swan website and Season Program
- Name near top of gratitude banner at New Swan Theater
- Invitation to attend all rehearsals and design presentations for both plays

New Swan Festival Producer – \$100,000

- Recognition as Festival Producer on cover of Season Program
- 12 VIP seats per year for 4 full seasons
- Largest Plaque prominently posted on New Swan Theater
- Acknowledgement from the stage during pre-show announcements
- Pre-show presentation for you, your family, and guests by Artistic Director
- Prominent recognition in perpetuity on New Swan website and Season Program
- Name on top of the gratitude banner adjacent to New Swan Theater
- Opportunity to purchase “house” for 3 seasons
- Invitation to attend all rehearsals and design presentations for both plays

Donations may be made online at <http://www.uadv.uci.edu/NewSwanTheatre/>

If you prefer to pay by check, please make it payable to:

UCI Foundation

UCI Department of Drama, New Swan Shakespeare Festival

249 Drama

Irvine, CA 92697-2775

Attn: Leslie Blough

**Gifts exceeding the value of goods/services at the levels to which they apply are deductible to the maximum allowable extent (Dinner, \$50 per person; Tickets \$50 per ticket).*

***Please note, your New Swan Shakespeare Society membership must be renewed each year of New Swan Shakespeare Festival.*

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NEW SWAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

THE NEW SWAN EXPERIENCE



SHAKESPEARE UNDER THE STARS!



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NEW SWAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

TWELFTH NIGHT, 2014
ELI SIMON, DIRECTOR



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NEW SWAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

ROMEO & JULIET, 2014
CALVIN MACLEAN, DIRECTOR



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NEW SWAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

KING LEAR, 2013
ELI SIMON, DIRECTOR



A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, 2013
BETH LOPES, DIRECTOR



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NEW SWAN 2015 SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY SEMINARS: "5 THINGS TO LOOK FOR" SERIES

Before each Saturday night performance (excluding opening weekend), a scholar will present a short talk giving audience members 5 things to look for in the play they are about to see. Each talk is different! Let us surprise you. Convene next to the New Swan at 7:00 pm.

July 18 (*Macbeth*): Julia Lupton, UCI

July 25: (*Much Ado*): Amy Kenny, UC Riverside

August 1 (*Macbeth*): Kent Lehnhof, Chapman University

August 8 (*Macbeth*): Greg Ungar, University of Denver

August 15 (*Much Ado*): Kent Cartwright, University of Maryland

August 22 (*Much Ado*): Kent Lehnhof, Chapman

August 29 (*Macbeth*): Ian Munro, UCI

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Before each show, artistic director Eli Simon will give a brief talk about the production. Convene next to the New Swan at 7:30.

POST-SHOW TALK BACKS

After every Saturday performance, the actors and director will answer questions about the plays.

SHAKESPEARE WEEKEND

Saturday, August 15: *Much Ado About Nothing*

Sunday, August 16: *Macbeth*

Afternoon of study beginning at 2:00 pm with UCI faculty and distinguished guests followed by performance at New Swan. Contact Julia Lupton.

FIRST FOLIO FRIDAYS

Noontime seminars at the Langson Library begin with a short lecture and end in Special Collections with a viewing of UCI's copy of Shakespeare's First Folio. Seminars led by Julia Lupton (English), Steve McLeod (Special Collections) and John Renaud (Special Collections).

Friday, August 7: *Macbeth*

Friday, August 14: *Much Ado About Nothing*

Location: Laudati Conference Room, Langson Library 570.



NEW SWAN SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

The Seminar Series is hosted by the UCI Shakespeare Center, New Swan Shakespeare Festival, the Langson Library, the Department of English, the Department of Drama, the Humanities Commons, and Illuminations: The Chancellor's Arts and Culture Initiative. CONTACT INFO: Julia Lupton, jrlupton@uci.edu.

A Tale of Two Shakespeares

A worthy pair of plays spans Orange County's vast production chasm

By Joel Beers

published: August 07, 2014

P. Kennedy



Is that you or thou?

Details:

Twelfth Night at New Swan Theater, UC Irvine Gateway Commons (near Langson Library), West Peltason and Campus drives, Irvine, (949) 824-6614; www.newswanshakespeare.com. In repertory with *Romeo & Juliet*; call or visit website for dates and times. \$25-\$50.

Taming of the Shrew at the Fullerton College Sculpture Garden, Lemon and Commonwealth, Fullerton. Sun., 5 p.m. \$30. Also at Huntington Beach Central Park, 18100 Golden West St., Huntington Beach. Sat., 5 p.m.

Visit www.alchemytheatre.com for more details.

A tale of two Shakespeare companies: one benefiting from an intimate relationship with the well-funded, respected UC Irvine theater department and has created one of the most striking performance venues you will ever see; the other a gypsy troupe that stages its plays outdoors and passes a collection basket during intermission—after you've already paid for a ticket.

But while the New Swan Shakespeare Festival and the Alchemy Theatre may differ in terms of financial support, physical place and, some could argue, dignity (a collection basket, really?), the fact that each pulls off an enjoyable production proves that as long as you have a committed cast and space for people to stand, sit or lie down, theater can be produced anywhere.

You just have to work a *lot* harder outside to make it work.

This is the third year the New Swan has held court in Irvine. Though a professional company, it is closely affiliated with UCI, thanks to artistic director Eli Simon being a theater professor there. Its New Swan Theater is a 15-ton, portable, open-roofed mini-Elizabethan theater, basically a three-level cylinder made of

steel and wood that can seat up to 130. With five separate seating areas, from on the floor to the balcony, each perch lends a different perspective, and the actors are never more than a few feet away.

Of course, if your cast and production are shite, it doesn't matter how innovative the physical setting is. Fortunately for Simon, who directs this production of *Twelfth Night*, his cast is more than capable.

Set on a 1920s Hollywood sound stage, Orsino Studios, which lends a Keystone Cops-like vibe to the proceedings, Simon's staging makes the show look and feel more accessible and intimate, but the life and vigor are supplied by his superb cast. Rare indeed is the Shakespeare production that doesn't have a weak link somewhere. This ensemble of undergrads, graduate students and outside actors is one of them. No one misses a beat, from Colin Nesmith's gloriously over-the-top Malvolio to Joshua Blair's Buster Keatonish fool Feste to Rosemary Brownlow as the suffering-in-silence Viola.

It's intimate, hilarious and a top-notch production all around.

The Alchemy Theatre, which launched a year ago, has a way to go to match the New Swan's physical accouterments. Currently, it's mounting *The Taming of the Shrew* at the amphitheater in Huntington Central Park and in the Fullerton College Sculpture Garden, basically a big lawn on the corner of Lemon and Commonwealth.

For the Fullerton production, there's no backstage area to speak of, no lights, seats (but for a couple of concrete benches) or amplification. It is theater reduced to its fundamentals: actors, an empty space and an audience. And what is striking about the company's *Shrew* is that it works in spite of all that, as well as a couple of clunky director missteps.

It's already difficult to hear at times, thanks to the traffic. Director Jeff Lowe compounds that by typically keeping his actors at least 10 feet from the audience, instead of having them come down to the first row of chairs or blankets. Another questionable choice is including a seldom-produced prologue, in which a drunken sot named Christopher Sly basically dreams the entire play. It adds length to an already long play, and while, as Lowe writes in the program, it's usually included to make the "misogynistic pill, which is Petruccio, a little easier to swallow," it's unnecessary—primarily because of the actors portraying Petruccio (Taras Wybaczynsky Jr.) and, especially, Katherine (Candice Rochelle Berge).

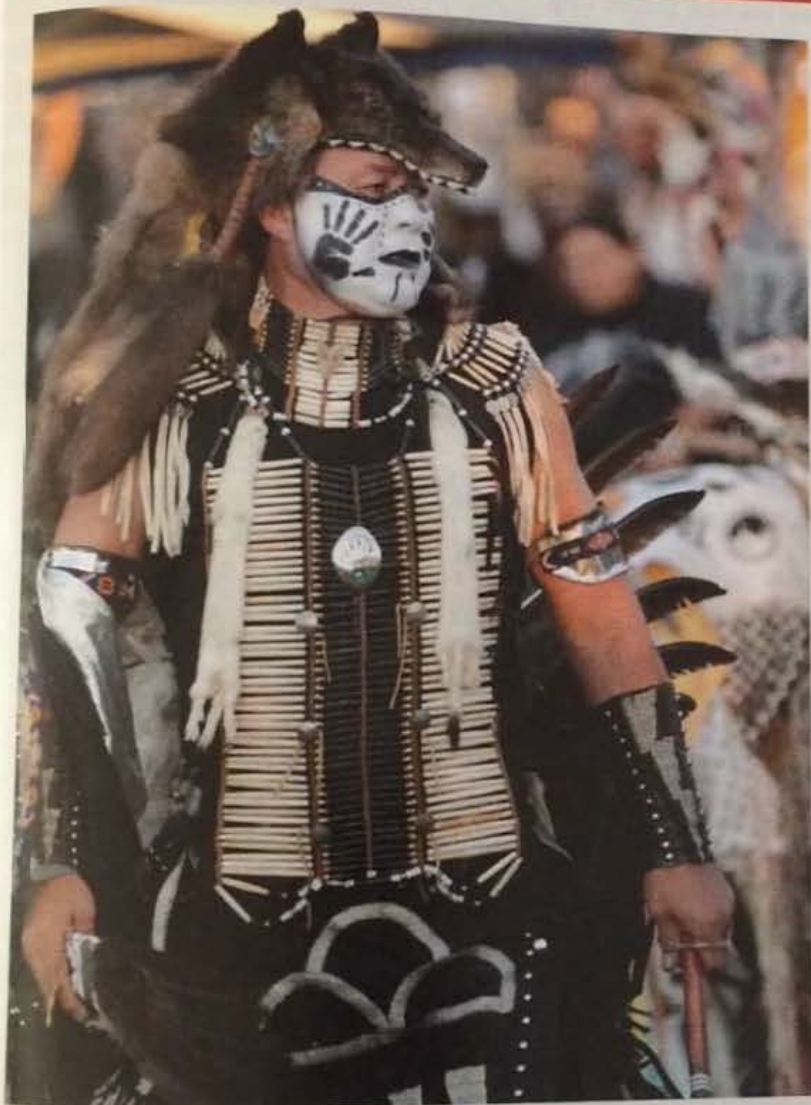
Yes, Petruccio starves, beats and humiliates Katherine. But he does it with such a witty flair that you actually see his endgame—which is absolutely misogynistic, but absolutely effective in breaking through Kate's defenses. And yes, Katherine does a 180-degree role reversal, beginning the play as a fiery, headstrong, independent woman and ending it as nothing more than a feminine vassal for her lord.

But here's the rub: Berge is so committed to the transformation, particularly in her final speech, that it's clear she hasn't been physically or psychically beaten into submission, but has chosen her station. There is no ironic wink to the audience from this Kate. She is wholly empowered and has made a choice, and if that choice nags contemporary liberated women and their emasculated men, then take it up with Shakespeare's ghost.

The New Swan already has a space that should be the envy of most companies in this county. Here's hoping Alchemy can say the same someday—and that it tosses the collection basket. When you're already asking folks for \$30 to see your show, it seems tacky to ask for additional donations. In fact, I'll make you a deal—ditch the shaming offering, and I'll mail you a check for the ticket I was comped.

5 Worth the Drive

BY ELISABETH ABRAHAMSON



Pechanga Pow Wow

July 11–13—Celebrate American Indian culture at the Pechanga Pow Wow, where tribal participants from across North America perform flag songs and gourd dances. There will be fireworks (July 12), a drum contest, and a battle-of-wits peon game. Kids learn to make traditional American Indian crafts such as woven bracelets, while attendees enjoy buffalo burgers, Tanka Bars (a snack made from buffalo and cranberries), and persimmon-mulberry smoothies. Pechanga Reservation Festival Grounds, Temecula. (951) 770-4769; pechanga.com.

Butterfly Pavilion

Through September 1—Get a close-up look at iridescent blue-dotted mourning cloak, lime-green malachite, and monarch butterflies. Some 30 species of butterflies from California, Texas, and Florida will flutter around the butterfly pavilion. Witness daily first flights, when the colorful insects emerge from their chrysalides and spread their wings for the first time, or stop by the new Monarch Waystation to study the iconic butterfly's life cycle. Natural History Museum, Los Angeles. (213) 763-3466; nhm.org.

4th of July at Stearns Wharf

July 4—Come early and snag a spot for the spectacular fireworks display. While you wait for the 9 p.m. show, you can listen to live music, or explore the interactive Ty Warner Sea Center. You can also peruse vendors selling jewelry, hats, arts and crafts, shells, fossils, and fishing supplies. Santa Barbara Water Taxi's kid-friendly Lil' Toot tugboat takes passengers around the wharf. Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara. stearnswharf.org.

New Swan Shakespeare Festival

July 10–August 30—Professional actors share the stage with UC Irvine drama professors, students, and alums to put on two Shakespeare productions at the portable New Swan Theater near the university's Aldrich Park. There are no bad seats in the circular, open-air Elizabethan-style theater, where audiences will be treated to performances of *Romeo and Juliet* and *Twelfth Night*. Gateway Commons on UC Irvine campus, Irvine. (949) 824-2787; www.newswanshakespeare.com.

Bike the Bay

August 24—Picturesque San Diego Bay sets the scene for this event's 25-mile route, which includes the San Diego–Coronado Bridge—a once-in-a-year opportunity—and passes through five cities via the Bayshore Bikeway before finishing at Embarcadero Marina Park South. Live entertainment, good grub, and a beer garden await hungry riders at the finish line. Embarcadero Marina Park South, San Diego. (619) 269-6873; bikethebay.net.

MORE LISTINGS >>>

PLEASE NOTE: Events and times are subject to change. Call the numbers listed for information.
not where alcohol is served.

CALENDAR

JULY 2014

drawings and paintings made of *washi*, a paper used for origami. Free. *Muckenthaler Cultural Center*, 1201 W. Malvern Ave., Fullerton, 714.738.6595, themuck.org

JULY 11-13

O.C. Brew Hee Haw

Love exploring new brews? Then you won't want to miss this craft-beer roundup. You'll taste 60-plus selections from the region's top breweries (Bootleggers, Bottle Logic and Cismontane, to name a few), and enjoy music, seminars from industry pros and other fun. Cheers! Tickets from \$50. *OC Fair and Event Center*, 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, 949.363.1774, ocbrewheehaw.com

JULY 12

Brad Paisley

The charismatic country crooner—who nabbed a People's Choice Award earlier this year—will have you singing and laughing along to his heartfelt yet often humorous tunes, such as "The Mona Lisa." 7PM. Tickets from \$26. *Verizon Wireless Amphitheater*, 8808 Irvine Center Drive, Irvine, 949.855.8095, livenation.com



SWAN SONG See *Romeo and Juliet* at the New Swan Theater.

JULY 10-AUG. 29

Romeo and Juliet As part of the New Swan Shakespeare Fest, you can experience the playwright's most beloved tragedy in the round. The work about two star-crossed lovers is performed outdoors in a sustainable Elizabethan-inspired theater. 8PM. Tickets from \$25. *New Swan Theater at UCI's Gateway Commons*, between Pereira and W. Peltason drives, 949.824.2787, newswanshakespeare.com

Meet and Greet With Richard MacDonald

Art enthusiasts should not miss the opportunity to chat with the sculptor and pick up a copy of his new book. The work presents the artist's most stunning masterpieces—sculptures of performers, contemporary nudes and dancers, among them—as well as his inspirations and passions. Noon. Free. *Dawson Cole Fine Art*, 326 Glenneyre St., Laguna Beach, 949.497.4988, dawsoncofineart.com

JULY 17

Third Thursdays: A Conversation With Peter Sarkisian

The lauded video artist

and Chief Curator Dan Cameron come together to speak with creative aficionados about the venue's current *Sarkisian & Sarkisian* exhibit. The show pairs the former's works with pieces from his father, Paul, a painter who was prominent in L.A.'s avant-garde creative scene. 6PM. Free. *Orange County Museum of Art*, 850 San Clemente Drive, Newport Beach, 949.759.1122, ocma.net

JULY 17-20

C.S. Lewis' The Great Divorce

The witty stage adaptation of the novelist's most humorous work takes the audience

on a journey from hell to paradise alongside some of his funniest characters. It's out of this world. Tickets from \$32. *Irvine Barclay Theatre*, 4242 Campus Drive, Irvine, 949.854.4646, thebarclay.org

JULY 19

Pipeline to a Cure

A who's-who crowd of water warriors, celebs and avid supporters of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will be among the attendees at the seventh annual event. It's a night of surfer-chic fun, with auctions, music and dinner—but we think the best part is it all supports the nonprofit's

mission to find a cure for the life-threatening disease. 6PM. Tickets from \$350, VIP tickets \$500. *Hyatt Regency Huntington Beach Resort & Spa*, 21500 Pacific Coast Highway, Huntington Beach, 714.938.1393, pipelinetoacure.com

JULY 19-20

Dahlia Show & Contest

Calling all green thumbs! Dozens of locally grown florals will be on display at the landmark venue's extravaganza. Garden enthusiasts can show off their own varieties, and the top three entries will be honored. 9AM. Free. *Roger's Gardens*, 2301 San Joaquin Hills Road, Corona del Mar, 949.640.5800, rogersgardens.com

Gershwin Greats

Music-lovers should not miss the Pac Symph's tribute to the iconic composer, whose talent touched Broadway stages, concert halls and opera houses. Pianist Jeffrey Biegel joins the orchestra to perform selections from *Porgy and Bess*, *An American in Paris* and the unforgettable 1924 work, "Rhapsody in Blue." And that's music to our ears. 7:30PM.

New Swan Shakespeare Festival returns to UC Irvine

BY SHANE NEWELL

2014-07-07 17:41:52



Eli Simon knows a thing or two about giving William Shakespeare's plays a breath of fresh air.

Simon serves as the artistic director for the New Swan Shakespeare Festival, a seven-week-long event to be hosted at UC Irvine from Thursday through Aug. 30.

The third annual festival features performances of "Romeo and Juliet" and "Twelfth Night" in an authentic 125-seat theater-in-the-round. The theater – which weighs 30,000 pounds and sits in the center of campus – sits in storage for most of the year. It has two seating tiers and is modeled in Elizabethan-style.

Simon, a UC Irvine professor who has been involved in the festival since its inception, worked to make a Roaring '20s adaptation of "Twelfth Night" for this year's festival. He said the characters in the play are based on iconic figures of the decade, including Greta Garbo and comedy-duo Laurel and Hardy.

Simon said it was a challenge balancing the comedic and romantic aspects in "Twelfth Night."

"I'm always hoping that we'll strive to find a perfect balance and it's hard to find with this play," Simon said. "We think that it will be extraordinarily entertaining but hopefully moving as well for both the actors and the audience."

Simon said being in a theater-in-the-round is "nirvana" for both the actors and audience members. He said the theater is optimal for the audience, since no one sits further than 10 feet from where the actors perform.

Adam Schroeder, who portrays Romeo in "Romeo and Juliet," is familiar with the famous play after working on multiple productions of it since 2008. He said he especially enjoyed working under "Romeo and Juliet" director Calvin MacLean.

"Something that Cal made really important that I find valuable is that the story is the most important," Schroeder said. "If we present the play to the audience in its purest form, then they can be moved by the story itself."

Unlike its adapted counterpart "Twelfth Night," "Romeo and Juliet" is set in Elizabethan-era Italy, Schroeder said.

Simon, who has traveled across the globe for various stage productions, said he noticed Shakespeare's ability to connect with world audiences. He thinks theater has the ability to unite everyone.

"I've found that there really are universal truths that bind us as people and performers," Simon said. "Part of that is the love of coming together and uniting in the spirit of theater to participate in the ritual of telling stories and reveling in them."

In conjunction with the play performances, UC Irvine will host a seminar series on topics ranging from masculinity in "Romeo and Juliet" to love and "lovesickness" in "Twelfth Night."

Contact the writer: snewell@ocregister.com

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Published: June 18, 2013 Updated: 4:56 p.m.

'Intimate' Shakespearian experience at New Swan



You recommend this. Be the first of your



By **ANNA ILIFF** / ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

The atmosphere is just as impressive as the production at the New Swan Shakespeare Festival coming to UC Irvine this summer.

From August through September, professional actors and production staff will present two of Shakespeare's most beloved works, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and "King Lear," as well as a popular Broadway musical "The Fantasticks" in an open-air venue offering up-close theatrical experiences.



New Swan Theater on the UCI campus features a small open-air venue for Shakespearian productions.

FILE PHOTO: EUGENE GARCIA, THE REGISTER

[MORE PHOTOS »](#)

New Swan Theater Shakespeare Festival

When: Aug. 1- Sept. 22

Where: UC Irvine's Gateway Commons, near Langson Library and Aldrich Park

Cost: \$25 for seniors and groups, \$30 for adults

"It's an incredibly special space. It just isn't like any other theater that I've ever been in," said Eli Simon, artistic director for the New Swan Theater and UC Irvine professor for the Drama Department. "We wanted a very intimate experience for our audience where they are really close to the action."

In this 125-seat theater, actors are literally close enough to touch.

"You can really see and feel and hear the wheels turning in the actor's brain," said Simon.

The theater is only 20 feet in diameter with "groundling" seating and a balcony directly stacked above the mezzanine level.

The 15-ton, movable, modular theater provides a blend of old and new with the functionality of light and sound technology and the atmosphere of a traditional Elizabethan theater in which Shakespeare's work would have originally been performed.

"The idea of a professional summer

Information: 949-824-2787 or
newswanshakespeare.com

presence at UC Irvine is something that the Drama Department has been dreaming about for over 40 years," said Simon. "It hasn't really come to fruition until the New Swan Shakespeare Festival."

Hosted by the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, the New Swan Theater Shakespeare Festival first debuted last year under the stars on the UC Irvine campus. Nestled between Langson Library and Aldrich Park, the New Swan offers theatergoers an outdoor theater experience with professional-grade productions, said Simon.

The festival will kick off with two performances running in tandem with one another, "King Lear" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream," directed by Simon and UC Irvine alumna Beth Lopes, respectively.

Attendees will travel back in time to the Iron Age for Simon's production of "King Lear," which features Dudley Knight, a professional Shakespearian actor and UC Irvine professor emeritus, in the title role. Music will be provided by UC Irvine's Taiko drumming group, Jodaiko.

"King Lear" offers the audience an examination of human nature and what happens when man is stripped down to his essence, said Simon.

Although the play is known for being particularly long, Simon said the production will be fast-paced and action-packed to keep the audience on the edge of their seats.

Two special "bash" events will be hosted by the dean of the Claire Trevor School of the Arts. These include a catered dinner, presentations by the directors and designers and a champagne toast. Proceeds from the events will go toward supporting the Drama Department at UC Irvine.

Theatergoers are encouraged to arrive early for various pre-show performances that include a comedy troupe, a sword fighting group or strolling musicians.

"We're starting a tradition here at this theater," said Simon. "Anybody that comes is getting in on the ground floor. Not everybody loves Shakespeare or a musical, but for those that do this is a great treat and it's right here in Orange County."

Contact the writer: ailiff@ocregister.com

A summer dream comes true

By PAUL HODGINS
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

As he showed guests around his new theater, Eli Simon, the chairman of UC Irvine's drama department, wore the proud smile normally found on teenage boys about to give their first car a test drive.

"This has been a dream in the making for 40 years," Simon said as he led an entourage up the gently sloping gallery of the New Swan Theater, a portable outdoor stage that drew its first audiences this month near Aldrich Park in the center of campus, a place called Gateway Commons.

"Robert Cohen, the first chair of the drama department, talked about creating a moveable outdoor Shakespearean stage even before I came here," Simon said. "It was always envisioned as an important part of the program."

Cohen, a well-known theater educator and scholar, is a respected Shakespearean scholar who directed many of the bard's plays at UC Irvine and elsewhere. He helmed the drama department from 1965 through 1990.

The New Swan's inaugural Shakespeare Under the Stars season, which ends Sunday, consists of two plays, "The Comedy of Errors" and "The Merchant of Venice." Professional actors and UC Irvine students share the small stage in front of packed houses in the 128-seat, nautilus-shaped theater.

Designed by Luke Hegel-Cantarella, assistant professor of scenic design at UCI, and completed under the supervision of Keith Bangs, the department's longtime production manager and technical director, the theater consists of 15 modular seating sections, each weighing about one ton.

It's shaped like an Elizabethan stage, with a few crucial differences: It's much smaller, and instead of tiers there's a single inclined plane that accommodates all the seating (imagine the shape of New York's Guggenheim Museum, only in miniature). The 8-foot-wide audience platform spirals from ground level to about 18 feet.

The roofless venue was built in 10 weeks from recycled materials: particle board, plywood, old office chairs discarded by UC San Diego. Everything in the 40-foot-diameter theater is held firmly in place by a 2-inch-square, welded-iron framework, supplemented by steel tubing and sturdy handrails.



PHOTOS: EUGENE GARCIA, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

The portable New Swan Theater, designed for Shakespeare summer performances, is set up in UCI's Gateway Commons.



All 128 patrons will be close to the action at UCI's New Swan Theater, which is only 40 feet wide. Some sit on the edge of the performing area.

"It's portable, but it's a little more work to set up than we planned," Simon said. "We thought we'd need a dozen or so bolts to attach it to the ground. Turns out we needed a lot more than that." More than 400, in fact.

The theater's debut was quite a pro-

duction in itself.

After a test run this year on the stage of the Claire Trevor Theatre, its 15 sections were transported from a production studio in the drama department complex on Mesa Road and assembled in Gateway Commons over the course of two days. It

"It's a wonderful place to perform. And it's excellent training for Shakespearean actors."

ELI SIMON
UC IRVINE
DRAMA
DEPARTMENT
CHAIRMAN

took a 12-person crew, two 18-wheelers, two forklifts and a truck with a crane.

The theater was subjected to rigorous city and university inspections. "It was quite an ordeal to get past all the red tape," Simon said. The New Swan can withstand 85 mph winds and an 8.0 earthquake – pretty sturdy for a portable structure.

Total cost for the unorthodox venue was about \$40,000, Simon estimated. It was funded through the Claire Trevor School of the Arts' production budget, a few private donations, a grant from Microsemi Corp. and money from the Focused Research Program in Medieval Studies, among other sources.

Simon is pleased with his department's long-awaited outdoor stage.

"It's a wonderful place to perform. And it's excellent training for Shakespearean actors."

Next year's Shakespeare Under the Stars season is already planned: "King Lear" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream." It will run Aug. 1 through Sept. 1. A small musical could also be staged in September 2013.

See more photos at
ocregister.com/irvine



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Arts Orange County Announces its 14th Annual Orange County Arts Awards

Outstanding Contribution to the Built Environment – **NEW SWAN THEATER, University of California, Irvine-Claire Trevor School of the Arts**

In the summer of 2012, UCI's Claire Trevor School of the Arts unveiled an unconventional new performance venue, the New Swan Theater—an audacious contemporary reimaging of Shakespeare's original Swan Theatre in London. Initiated by UCI Drama Professor Eli Simon from a dream project originally conceived by longtime UCI drama professor Robert Cohen, the New Swan Theater is a replica of an intimate Elizabethan era theatre with customary "groundlings," mezzanine and balcony seating areas, accommodating an audience of 125. It was constructed of recycled materials in a design that reflects contemporary architectural aesthetics. Built to be "portable" it was assembled for its summer Shakespeare seasons at Gateway Commons, next to Aldrich Park on the UCI campus, and then removed for storage during the winter. According to the New Swan Theater's mission statement, "Shakespeare's theatre was born out of the impulse to create a direct, visceral and egalitarian relationship between actors and audience. We want our audience to feel the emotions, actions, and texts as deeply as the actors, directors and designers that create the art."

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