

TOM HANKS NAVIGATES A VARIETY OF CHARACTERS. B2

ARTS LIFE

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BRUCE WASSILAN (Designer Photo) Braden Wood, top left, Griffin Hewitt, top right, Sarah Bestler, bottom left and Hayley Tonta will be in an upcoming production of A Midsummer Night's Dream by Do It With Class Young People's Theatre.

DO IT WITH CLASS

Youth theatre group turns back the clock to celebrate the best of its 20 years

GORD BRICK FOR THE LEADER POST

As the saying goes, you can't turn back the clock, but the Do It With Class Young People's Theatre company is doing just that, in a few different ways, as it celebrates its 20th anniversary.

The Regina amateur group is helping to mark its second decade by performing favourites from past seasons according to founder and artistic director Annette Hillstrom.

"We're kicking off the season with A Midsummer Night's Dream. All of the productions that have been chosen for the company this year were chosen

as past favourites of mine. So this will be the third time that Midsummer has been performed by the company. It's always been popular and well received, and it's a wonderful moment for the students who are involved with it," said Hillstrom.

William Shakespeare's comedic tale of young lovers who are manipulated by fairies dwelling in the forest includes a lesson about seeing the best in a person. Sarah Bestler, a 17-year-old student at Campbell Collegiate plays Helena, who says of her beloved Demetrius: "Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind."

Theatre-goers interested in seeing the production, which includes original music written by Robert Urman and choreography created by Chance Perry,

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM
Do It With Class Young People's Theatre

When: 7:30 p.m., Oct. 11 & 12
Where: Sharnbacher Room, Conexus Arts Centre

can take in one of two evening shows. They're at the Conexus Arts Centre, in the Schumacher Theatre, on Oct. 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Do It With Class (DIWC) provides theatre training and experience for youngsters mostly aged 10-18. Hillstrom cites for members who've gone on to performing arts degrees or careers, including Tiana Mackay, star of the television series Orphan Black.

"Wherever they are, we try to go and see what they're doing. This is family and they are an extension of our family, so we really try to keep in touch with them," Hillstrom said.

And because the alumni are important to her, DIWC is also recruiting the past by bringing back some productions of the company to perform alongside its members during this celebratory season.

"20 per cent of the whole thrust of this year is having as many of these individuals be able to return home, particularly in January when we're performing 'Class'."

Returning actors include Nathan Sgrazretti, 20, who belonged to DIWC during 2006-2011. He's currently pursuing a journalism degree at the University of Regina, where he's also president of the students' union.

Sgrazretti plays Theseus in Midsummer. He says returning as a guest performer has illustrated that he's older than company members, but not better.

"These kids get more talented and more experienced every year. Returning as an alumnus, I feel like I'm among equals."

Sgrazretti credits his DIWC years with developing traits that have helped him achieve his goals.

"It's not just about the actual theatre and acting skills. It's how to properly prepare, meet deadlines, etc. You're always learning something new, a new trick or something else. These are definitely things that have helped me in my career as a student politician, for sure."

PREVIEW

Fafards are inspired by their Prairie values



Sculptor Joe Fafard will appear with his musician son, Joel, during a unique upcoming show.

GORD BRICK FOR THE LEADER POST

They are father and son, but it is that equality binds together the famous Fafards — sculptor and Order of Canada recipient Joe and jazz-voiced acoustic guitarist Joel — in their love of straightforward Prairie values.

"I think everything I do is spawned from growing up on the Prairies. It'll always have that sensibility in it, being honest and never pretentious," Joel said in an interview to promote a new record. It promises a unique travelling show that will combine his musical

PREVIEW

A Tune To Art: Sculpture and Song, Joe and Joel Fafard
When: Oct. 15 to 16
Where: State Gallery

talents with the legendary sculptures of his dad Joe.

The show is called A Tune to Art: Sculpture and Song, and will debut in Regina at the State Gallery on the evenings of Oct. 15 and 16. Tickets are available at the State Gallery.

Joe also identified the Prairies as being the common bond that ties together the stations and the songs

being featured in the combined art performance.

"It's not very literal, but we've both developed our sensibility toward our art here on the Prairies, and the music Joel has chosen for this show is a sort of bluegrass mixture, and I decided to do for this exhibition a series of wild Canadian animals," Joe said.

Producing bronze casts of such creatures as the rovers, the caribou, the porcupine and the moose at his foundry in Prince is unusual for the older Fafard. In the past, he's focused mainly on domesticated animals.

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