

University Notes

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New Harmony Theatre launches season with "Othello"

New Harmony Theatre opens its 21st season of professional theatre in New Harmony, Indiana, on Friday, June 13. **Lenny Leibowitz**, artistic director, began rehearsals for the opening production of William Shakespeare's *Othello* last week. According to Leibowitz, this summer the company begins "The Big Four Over Four" - a four-year cycle that will include Shakespeare's four great masterpieces: *Othello*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, and *King Lear*.

Leibowitz said, "These plays represent the richest, most inexhaustible body of work ever produced. In their boundless creativity, they are on a par with the Sistine Chapel and Beethoven's symphonies." **Amy Estes**, managing director, continued, "I am so thrilled to be producing these plays at New Harmony Theatre! We hear from our New York actors all the time that our audiences are the best in the country. They deserve to see the best plays of all time on our stage."

Leibowitz has committed to a lean, muscular production of *Othello* that features eight brilliant actors playing all the roles and a running time of just two and a half hours. In his mind, *Othello* is the most intimate of Shakespeare's great masterpieces. He said, "*Othello* is a tragedy of passion, the most painfully exciting play ever written. From the first moment, it sucks all the oxygen out of the room and grabs the heart with a vice-like grip."

Othello is set in the exotic worlds of Venice and Cyprus. Its title character, a powerful Moorish warrior, is celebrated for his unparalleled heroism on the battlefield. Desdemona, the beautiful daughter of a wealthy Venetian senator, is equally seduced by his poetic soul. Othello and Desdemona forge their union in defiance of racial taboos, but their seemingly indestructible marriage soon ruptures when the villainous Iago - Othello's most trusted aide - wages a covert campaign to destroy Othello and everything he loves. According to Leibowitz, "the play generates its electricity from a clash between mighty opposites, as the spirit of love and the spirit of war vie for Othello's soul. It roils with passion, jealousy and betrayal."

Broadway stars **Franz Jones** (Othello), **Ken Jennings** (Iago), **Susan Derry** (Desdemona), and **Joy Franz** (Emilia and Brabantio) lead the cast of *Othello*. Jones was in the original Broadway production of *Big River*; Jennings played Tobias in the original Broadway production of *Sweeney Todd*; Derry is familiar to New Harmony Theatre audiences from last season's productions of *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *I Do! I Do!*, and she was in the Broadway company of *Wonderful Town*; and Franz played the Wicked Stepmother in the original Broadway production of *Into the Woods*.

Other members of the cast include **Jimmy Davis**, a recent graduate of The Juilliard School of Drama, as Cassio and the Duke; **Kensington Blaylock**, a recent USI graduate, familiar to New Harmony Theatre audiences from her performance as Cecily in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, as Bianca and the Clown; and New York actors **Jarred Kjack** as Roderigo and **Cliff Campbell** as Lodovico and Montano.

The artistic team for *Othello* includes **Tijana Bjelajac**, scenic designer; **Shan Jensen**, costume designer; **Craig A. Young**, lighting designer; **Robert Dagit**, sound designer; and **Michele Fugate**, production stage manager.

Othello runs through June 29 at New Harmony's Murphy Auditorium. A free post-show discussion with the director and cast members will be held after the performance on Sunday, June 15. Free pre-show discussions

with the director, dramaturg, designers, or cast members will be held at 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 21 and Saturday, June 28.

Tickets for *Othello* are \$22 for adults, \$20 for seniors, and \$10 for anyone 25 or younger. Group discounts are available for groups of 20 or more. Season tickets are also available. Upcoming productions include *Crimes of the Heart*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy by Beth Henley, and *My Fair Lady*, the Tony Award-winning musical by Lerner and Loewe. For more information, contact the box office at 812/682-3115 or toll free at 1-877-NHT-SHOW (648-7469), or visit the theatre's new web site at www.newharmonytheatre.com.

Burdette Park-USI Trail receives federal designation

The Burdette Park-University of Southern Indiana Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Nature Trail has been designated as a National Recreation Trail by the Secretary of the Interior.

The Burdette Park-USI Trail, a scenic .6-mile segment, is the result of a visionary partnership to eventually provide a non-motorized trail connection between the University and Burdette Park. When complete, the trail is projected to be a total of 2.5 miles from Discovery Lodge to USI, allowing students, faculty, and staff access to Burdette Park and 32 miles of bike routes.

Secretary of the Interior **Dirk Kempthorne** announced June 7 that 24 trails in 16 states have been designated as new National Recreation Trails, adding more than 1,100 miles of trails to the National Trails System. Each of the new trails will receive a certificate of designation and trail markers and join a network of more than 1,000 trails encompassing more than 12,000 miles.

"One of my priorities at Interior is to reconnect American families to nature," said Kempthorne. "The National Trails System, including these additions, provides an excellent link to the outdoors, particularly for children. National Recreation Trails exemplify partnerships and are providing a path to fitness and stewardship for Americans of all ages."

The National Recreation Trails Program is jointly administered by the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program and the U.S. Forest Service in conjunction with a number of other federal and nonprofit partners, notably American Trails, which hosts the National Recreation Trail Web site.

"Lincoln" and "Douglas" to debate at USI

As presumptive presidential nominees John McCain and Barack Obama discuss holding debates in the Lincoln-Douglas style, Lincoln and Douglas interpreters **Timothy Connors** and **George Buss** will present "A Discussion with President Lincoln and Judge Douglas" on Thursday, June 19, at the University of Southern Indiana.

Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas held their famous debates (primarily about slavery) in 1858 throughout the state of Illinois as they fought for a seat in the U.S. Senate. Although Lincoln lost the senate seat (then elected by the state legislature), his performance in the debates catapulted him into the national spotlight, his party's presidential nomination, and the presidency.

As Illinois and the nation celebrate the sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) of the Lincoln-Douglas debates this year, Connors and Buss will participate in a "Debate Reunion Tour" in all seven original debate

communities.

Connors is the director of speech and theatre and George is the district director of Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) at Freeport High School in Freeport, Illinois. "A Discussion with President Lincoln and Judge Douglas" was written by the late Richard F. Sokup, a Freeport native and Douglas interpreter for 45 years.

Held in conjunction with USI's Lincoln Institute for Teachers, "A Discussion with President Lincoln and Judge Douglas" will begin at 7 p.m. June 19 in Rice Library Room 0017 and is free and open to the public.

In addition, the University community is invited to attend a panel of USI political scientists for a discussion of "How the Events of the Late 1850s Shape Us: Reflections on Modern American Politics," at 8:30 a.m. Friday, June 20, in Couch-Renner Auditorium (Education Center Room 1101). On the panel will be **Dr. Linda Bennett**, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs; **Dr. Stephen Bennett**, instructor in political science; and **Dr. Brian Posler**, assistant vice president for Academic Affairs.

Sponsored by Historic Southern Indiana, an outreach program of USI, the fifth annual Lincoln Institute for Teachers, "A House Dividing: Lincoln and the Emergence of Modern Politics," will be held June 19-20. Teachers from all grade levels and disciplines come to USI to learn from top Lincoln scholars.

This year's institute focuses on the year 1858 as a turning point in American politics and will explore such events as the impact of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, the rise of Republican Party, and the Lincoln-Douglas debates. Since 2008 is a presidential election year, another focus is the nature of political discourse in our current political process as compared with the early days of the modern two-party system in the Civil War era.

For more information, call Historic Southern Indiana at 800/489-4474.

20th RopeWalk Retreat offers free readings and more

The 20th Annual RopeWalk Writers Retreat will be held June 14-21 in New Harmony, Indiana. Even if you're not registered, you can attend free craft lectures and readings by this year's distinguished faculty: **Stephen Dobyns**, **Brigit Pegeen Kelly**, and **Dave Smith**, poetry; **Lee Martin** and **Elizabeth Stuckey-French**, fiction; and **Susan Neville**, creative nonfiction. There also will be a free roundtable symposium with literary publishers.

All free readings will be held in the Atheneum. The craft lectures and literary roundtable will be held in the Barn Abbey. Here's the schedule:

Saturday, June 14

Reading by **Sigrid Nunez** and **Bob Shacochis**, 6 p.m. Reception to follow.

Sunday, June 15

Reading by **Brigit Pegeen Kelly**, 6 p.m.

Monday, June 16

Reading by **Lee Martin**, 7 p.m. Reception to follow.

Tuesday, June 17

Dave Smith craft lecture, 9:30 a.m.

Stephen Dobyns craft lecture, 10:30 a.m.

Susan Neville craft lecture, 1:30 p.m.

Reading by **Dave Smith**, 7 p.m. Reception to follow.

Wednesday, June 18

Reading by **Susan Neville**, 6 p.m.

Thursday, June 19

Lee Martin craft lecture, 9:30 a.m.

Elizabeth Stuckey-French craft lecture, 10:30 a.m.

Literary Press Roundtable: (Crab Orchard Review, River Styx, Sarabande Press, Southern Indiana Review), 1:30 p.m.

Friday, June 20

Reading by **Elizabeth Stuckey-French**, 7 p.m. Reception to follow.

Saturday, June 21

Reading by **Stephen Dobyns**, 6 p.m.

For the complete schedule, go to ropewalk.org or call 800/467-8600.

The Posey County Board of Commissioners issued a state of emergency for Posey County on Thursday due to rising floodwater from the Wabash River. No flooding is anticipated in the facilities RopeWalk uses, but some parking lots and streets may be flooded or inaccessible for other reasons. The Atheneum parking lot is flooded, but parking is available on North Street. Call for current information about the Barn Abbey: 812/464-1863.

Summer Hat Luncheon Set for June 19

Beautiful hats, festive table décor and a lighthearted, colorful atmosphere; all of these elements will work together on Thursday, June 19, to create one of the season's most popular events, the Summer Hat Luncheon. For the sixth year, some of the area's most distinguished men have been selected to serve the ladies their lunch.

Sponsored by the USI/Historic New Harmony Foundation, the Summer Hat Luncheon has benefited the restoration of the Schnee-Ribeyre-Elliott house, one of New Harmony's finest mid-19th century homes. Funds raised at this year's event will go toward landscaping around the house and property located at West and Tavern streets.

The Schnee-Ribeyre-Elliott house is an accurate interpretation of the Gothic Federalist architecture movement popular in the mid 1800s. With the home's restoration complete, the building is available for use by individuals and organizations throughout the Tri State for meetings and other special events. Offices of Historic New Harmony, Inc. are located on the second floor of the home.

Each year, the Summer Hat Luncheon is attended by more than 200 women who are encouraged to select very special hats for the occasion. Luncheon tables for four may be sponsored for \$120. Table sponsors may then "dress" their tables with their favorite tablecloths, napkins, centerpieces, dinner ware and table service. Table hosts may also select to have a table "dressed" for them for an additional charge of \$50. Individuals may purchase single tickets for \$30 and will be seated at a table with other guests. Donations are welcome, if one cannot attend.

The Summer Hat Luncheon program includes a pre-luncheon tour of the Schnee-Ribeyre-Elliott house at 11 a.m. The noon luncheon is held at the Granary and features a showing of select fashions, jewelry and antiques by the New Harmony Antique Showrooms in the Mews. This year, **Annette Buckland**, the store's manager, has chosen her finest merchandise to feature during the luncheon program.

To reserve a table or to purchase a ticket for the luncheon, contact **Betty Rice** at 812/682-4727, **Nancy Manchette** at 812/682-4059, or Historic New Harmony at 812/682-4488.

Screaming Eagles' Grass Roots Series begins June 19, Races open to competitors of all age groups

The USI cross country program is sponsoring the fourth annual

"Screaming Eagles' Grass Roots Series." The series, which is a family-friendly event open to competitors of all age groups, is comprised of five races, beginning June 19 and ending August 7.

Each race will be a four-kilometer run that will take place at the USI Broadway Recreational Complex. The course is entirely grass and consists of two loops on flat-to gently rolling terrain.

To get to the Broadway Recreational Complex, go south on Schutte Road and turn right onto Broadway. The complex will be on the right-hand side.

The start time for each race will be at 7:30 p.m., with races on June 19, June 26, July 10, July 24, and August 7. Registration is from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. on race day only. Registration costs are \$5 per race and \$20 for the series. All proceeds benefit the USI cross country/track and field programs.

Awards will go to the top five male and female competitors in each race and results will be available on the internet at www.usi.edu/sports, www.tristaterunner.com, and at www.gerwc.com.

Overall series awards to age group winners are in the following divisions: 14-under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-over. Overall series awards will be determined by adding the total time from your best three races in the series. To be eligible, competitors only have to run three of the five.

For more information, email USI Head Cross Country/Track and Field Coach Mike Hillyard at mhillyar@usi.edu.

Names in the News

Justin Hill has accepted a position as a programmer/analyst in the Computer Center. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Mount Allison University. Hill was formerly employed as a computer systems analyst II at Vectren.

Rachel Warren has accepted a position as an administrative assistant in the College of Nursing and Health Professions. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in cross-cultural studies from Bethany College of Missions in Minnesota.

Andrew Zellers has accepted a position as assistant registrar in Office of the Registrar. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from USI. Zellers was formerly employed as a financial aid advisor at Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana.

Patrick Zimmerman has accepted a position as assistant director of Human Resources. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in quantitative business analysis from Western Kentucky University. Zimmerman was formerly employed as a human resources manager at Sunspring America, Inc.

Accomplishments

Doug Goepfner, ADA coordinator at USI, will be on the June 20 program, "Open Your Eyes: Employing Individuals with Disabilities," for local HR personnel and business representatives. His presentation, "An Introduction to ADA Title I and Reasonable Accommodations," will provide an introductory overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), with an emphasis on the obligations of employers under Title I of the ADA. In addition, the concept of reasonable accommodations will be defined and illustrated via the presentation of examples of several reasonable accommodations that are most commonly provided in workplace settings.

The program will be held at the Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center. USI is one of the community sponsors of the event.

Jann Hickey, learning specialist in Academic Skills, recently earned Master Tutor Trainer Certification through the Association for the Tutoring Profession (ATP). Certification recognizes individuals for their expertise and dedication to the tutoring profession and establishes uniform standards for training across the profession. It is valid for three years.

In Appreciation

"I would like to thank everyone that came to the funeral home, sent flowers, cards, chimes or prayed for my family after the unexpected death of my youngest son, Craig." - **Donna Moore**, administrative assistant in the Pott College of Science and Engineering.

FYI

ArchiCamp offered at New Harmony

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and Historic New Harmony will offer the award-winning ArchiCamp from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, July 10, at the Atheneum. Children ages 8 to 12 will spend the one-day camp discovering history in 3D through the architecture and landmarks of New Harmony. ArchiCamp encourages children to use their imaginations and powers of observation while they learn about history, architecture, and renovation. Campers will explore New Harmony and enjoy hands-on activities, finding their way through the historic labyrinth and creating their own stained glass designs. They'll visit several historic churches and build their own models using recycled materials. This is the second year for the New Harmony ArchiCamp, winner of a prestigious award from the American Association of State and Local History. Cost of the camp is \$25 and includes refreshments, educational materials, and souvenirs. Campers should bring a sack lunch. Enrollment for the camp is limited to 20 children. Reservations must be made by July 4. Contact Suzanne Stanis at Historic Landmarks Foundation: 800/450-4534.

Sign your child up for Super Summer

If you have children between the ages of 4 and 14 and are looking for ways to entertain and engage them in educational summer experiences, check out USI's Super Summer enrichment classes. The first week of Super Summer will be held at Tekoppel School (111 N. Tekoppel, about 3.5 miles from campus) June 16-20. Morning classes, from 9 to 11:30 a.m., focus on science topics, and afternoon class themes include geography, art, and technology. The afternoon session runs 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. and children may enroll in either morning or afternoon classes; or, if enrolled in both, a free lunch and supervised play time is provided. Partial grant funding is allowing classes to be offered at a reduced fee. The schedule of classes for June 16-20 and for July 14-18 at Castle Elementary School is online at www.usi.edu/extserv/personal/SuperSummer.asp.

New Harmony is "Best of the Midwest"

Historic New Harmony is highlighted in *Best of the Midwest* 2008, an annual guide from *Midwest Living* magazine. *Best of the Midwest* explores the diversity of the Heartland region, including great food, scenic drives, breathtaking vistas, unexpected treasures, favorite weekend getaways and more. The special issue is the "must do, must see, must eat" guide to the Midwest. *Midwest Living's Best of the Midwest* 2008 special issue is available on newsstands now.

USI Day at Churchill Downs is June 21

The Greater Louisville USI Alumni Chapter invites you and your family and friends to join them for a perfect view of the finish line at USI Day at Churchill Downs on Saturday, June 21 in Louisville. Gates open for the Stephen Foster Stakes at 11:30 a.m.; post time is 1:15 p.m. Cost is \$31 for adults, \$22 for children ages 12 to 4, and children ages 3 and under are free. Price includes admission, reserved seating in Millionaires Row-Level 4, lunch buffet, USI souvenir, race program, and tax and gratuity. A round-trip motor coach from USI will be offered for an additional \$20 per person. For more information, call Alumni and Volunteer Services at 812/464-1928.