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NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

NEARTS

A GREAT NATION DESERVES GREAT ART

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ORPHAN GIRL THEATRE

Macbeth comes to military families



NEA brings

SHAKESPEARE

TO MILITARY BASES

On September 10th, amid great excitement and anticipation, the curtain rose in a converted movie theater at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. In front of a capacity crowd of troops, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival began its riveting production of “the Scottish play” (as it’s called by superstitious actors). Outside, the theater sign announced, “No movies—*Macbeth*.”

The movie theater sign at Maxwell Air Force Base. Photo: Leslie Liberato

At a theater class, actors from Macbeth discuss “stage fighting” with children at the base. Photo: Leslie Liberato



It was here that the National Endowment for the Arts launched its *Shakespeare in American Communities Military Base Tour*. With \$1 million from the Department of Defense, the Arts Endowment worked with all four military branches to serve military personnel and their families with free performances and educational activities. After Maxwell Air Force Base, the tour continued at 17 more bases, finishing at Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, New Mexico, on October 21st. The tour was managed by Arts Midwest, based in Minneapolis. Additional support for *Shakespeare in American Communities* has been provided by The Sallie Mae Fund.

NEA Chairman Dana Gioia said, "As our country now has the best-educated, best-trained military in our nation's history, the Arts Endowment has made a conscious effort to extend programs of artistic excellence, including *Shakespeare in American Communities*, to the men, women, and their families in our nation's Armed Forces. We have enjoyed bringing the greatest playwright in the English language to a great audience."

The 13 bases that comprised the Alabama Shakespeare Festival tour included three Army, three Navy, two Marine, and five Air Force bases in 11 states from North Carolina to New Mexico. They presented more than 16 performances of *Macbeth*, and many more educational and outreach activities. In the spirit of theater tours of the past, the venues on each of the bases ranged from theaters to gymnasiums to, in one case, an airplane hangar. The Arts Endowment also provided multimedia resource kits for teachers and librarians on all the bases. The kits featured a recitation contest guide, timeline poster, audio CD, videos, and other materials.

Alabama Shakespeare Festival's Producing Director Kent Thompson explained why *Macbeth* has thrilled audiences for so long. He said, "We watch two of the best and brightest (Lord and Lady Macbeth) decide to seize power through murder and deception. In doing so, they unleash a furious evil into their world. *Macbeth* is also a fascinating study in the self-creation of a tyrant."

Shakespeare in American Communities is the largest tour of Shakespeare in American history. Since September 2003, the Arts Endowment has engaged 29 professional theater companies to bring new Shakespeare productions and special in-school programs to more than 200 communities across all 50 states.

Left: *Macbeth* (Remi Sandri) and *Macduff* (Howard Overshown) exchange blows. Photo: Phil Scarsbrook

Shakespeare in American Communities *Military Base Tour with Alabama Shakespeare Festival:* September

- 10-11 Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL
- 15 Kings Bay Submarine Base, Kings Bay, GA
- 17-18 Charleston Naval Weapons Station,
Charleston, SC
- 21-22 Camp Lejeune Marine Base, Jacksonville, NC
- 24 Quantico Marine Base, Quantico, VA
- 28 Selfridge Air National Guard Base/TACOM
Army Base, Mt. Clemens, MI

October

- 1 Naval Support Activity Mid-South,
Millington, TN
- 3 Scott Air Force Base, O'Fallon, IL
- 6 Fort Riley Army Base, Manhattan, KS
- 9 Fort Leavenworth Army Base,
Fort Leavenworth, KS
- 15 Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, CO
- 18 Cannon Air Force Base, Clovis, NM
- 20-21 Holloman Air Force Base, Alamogordo, NM

Other Shakespeare in American Communities *Military Base Tour engagements:*

- March 6, 2004 Fort Richardson, Anchorage, AK
Aquila Theatre Company
- June 23, 2004 Edwards Air Force Base, Lancaster, CA
The Acting Company
- October 14, 2004 Pearl Harbor Naval Station,
Pearl Harbor, HI
Artists Repertory Theater
Hickman Air Force Base, HI
Artists Repertory Theater
- October 16, 2004 Schofield Barracks, HI
Artists Repertory Theater



Above: The witches (Jennifer Hunt, Suzanne Curtis, and Sonja Lanzener) surround *Macbeth* (Remi Sandri). Photo: Phil Scarsbrook

The Word on Shakespeare

Letters about the Program

What a great opportunity to see such a wonderful production. I believe this is what the National Endowment for the Arts is all about—bringing art to the people and making art accessible to the people.

—Librarian
Scott Air Force Base
O'Fallon, Illinois

With the NEA and the Department of Defense and other sponsors getting together, it tells us that we are appreciated. Military people are sacrificing a lot, and being appreciated by Americans.

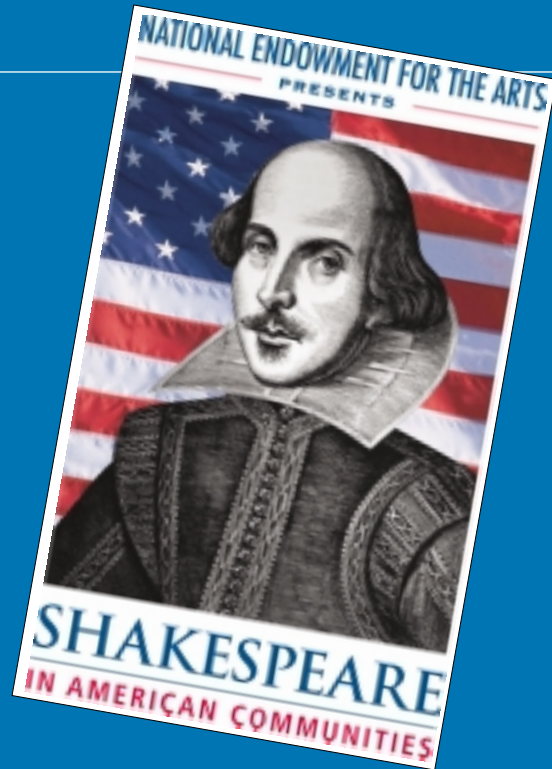
—Air Base Commander
Maxwell Air Force Base
Montgomery, Alabama

Since marrying into the military, and moving around the world, my access to genuinely great theatre has been limited. Tonight for the first time in many years, I have had the pure joy of being a part of a theatrical journey into another time and place, and I was able to share it with my two young daughters. Tonight I witnessed the Alabama Shakespeare Festival's production of *Macbeth* at Holloman AFB, NM. The performance was flawless in every aspect.

—Liisa M. Rose
Alamogordo, New Mexico

Many students said it was the first professional Shakespearean play they had ever attended. That in itself made it worth everything that was done to secure this event in our area. A number of students said they would make the effort to go again if given another opportunity.

—Debbie Ragsdale
Waycross, Georgia



Offering this program to our personnel allowed so many who have never been touched by Shakespeare or even a live performance, to experience it first hand. Today I was greeted by many who offered rave reviews of the show. Please pass on to all involved in the production that they have touched so many and expanded the minds of many more.

—Morale, Welfare
and Recreation Office
Pearl Harbor Naval Station
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

On behalf of the participating students and teachers of Richmond Public Schools, I wish to thank you for the residency “Literacy through Theatre” and for the performance of *Richard III*. This was a very positive experience, particularly for our students at John Marshall High School.

Richmond Public Schools is truly grateful to The Acting Company and the National Endowment for the Arts for providing this wonderful experience.

—Susan Damron
Richmond, Virginia

National Council on the Arts

Comes to the US Capitol

On July 15th, a special event was held in the US Capitol to honor members of the National Council on the Arts. Senators Lamar Alexander, Dick Durbin, Harry Reid, Rick Santorum, Paul Sarbanes, and Gordon Smith attended the reception hosted by Bob Bennett in the Mansfield Room—as well as Representatives Cass Ballenger, Norm Dicks, and John Mica. The Piedmont blues that filled the room was provided by NEA National Heritage Fellow John Cephas and Paul Wiggins.

Before the reception, Representative Mica graciously led council members through a tour of the Capitol building, describing many of its artistic works and historical features.

Below, from left to right: Senator Bob Bennett welcomes the council. NEA Chairman Dana Gioia (right) talks with Rep. Norm Dicks. Rep. John Mica leads the tour through the Capitol building. Photos: Christy Crytzer

Below: NEA National Heritage Fellow John Cephas and Paul Wiggins with Senator Rick Santorum and NEA Chairman Dana Gioia. Photo: Christy Crytzer



NEA National Heritage Fellows

Honored at the US Capitol



On September 30th, National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Dana Gioia and Members of Congress presented the 2004 NEA National Heritage Fellowships in a Capitol Hill ceremony.

Ten fellowships representing the nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts were presented to 12 artists from ten states. These awardees were chosen for their artistic excellence and contributions to cultural heritage. The fellowship includes a one-time award of \$20,000.

The following evening, the Fellows performed at Lisner Auditorium, on the campus of George Washington University. Guest host Sam Donaldson (of ABC News) joined Master of Ceremonies Nick Spitzer (of PRI's "American Routes") for an evening of performances and artist interviews.

The NEA National Heritage events are supported by Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Inc.

Above: NEA Chairman Dana Gioia (foreground, far left) with the 2004 National Heritage Fellows. Photo: Robert Burgess

2004 NEA National Heritage Fellowship Recipients

Anjani Ambegaokar, North Indian Kathak dancer (Diamond Bar, CA)

Charles "Chuck" T. Campbell, sacred steel guitar player (Rochester, NY)

Joe Derrane, Irish-American button accordionist (Randolph, MA)

Jerry Douglas, Dobro player (Nashville, TN)

Gerald "Subiyay" Miller, Skokomish oral tradition bearer, carver, basket maker (Shelton, WA)

Milan Opacich, *Tamburitza* instrument maker (Shererville, IN)

Eliseo and Paula Rodriguez, straw appliqué artists (Santa Fe, NM)

Koko Taylor, Blues musician (Country Club Hills, IL)

Yuqin Wang and Zhengli Xu, Chinese rod puppeteers (Aloha, OR)

2004 Bess Lomax Hawes Award

Chum Ngek, Cambodian musician and teacher (Gaithersburg, MD)

NEA Spotlight:

Orphan Girl Theatre

In 2003, the Butte Center for the Performing Arts, located in Montana, received a Coming Up Taller Award from the NEA. This year, a new grant and a new summer camp program have been added to the Butte Center's list of awards and achievements.

Two theaters are located in the Butte Center: the Mother Lode and the Orphan Girl. It is the latter that has garnered a great deal of attention of late. The Orphan Girl Theatre operates year round with after-school and summer programs for children ages 5-18. In addition to preparing and presenting musical productions, young people write and produce melodramas set in turn-of-the-century Butte. These original, one-act historical comedies are researched at libraries, the Butte Archives, the Mining Museum, and the Montana Tech campus by the student actors who receive scholarships to participate in the program.

Through this research, the students develop a better understanding of history, enhance their ability to conduct historical research, and increase their appreciation of the popular literature from past decades. The Butte Center holds workshops, ranging from jazz and cabaret performance to the business of show business—with students handling royalties, box office duties, and concessions. They also learn stage lighting, set construction, and sound management. Recently, students have enjoyed producing a classic Greek drama—Sophocles' *Antigone*.

The latest program undertaken by the Butte Center is the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Summer Theatre Camp. Suzanne Konicek, Artistic Director of the Orphan Girl Theatre, said, "This summer we were provided with the resources to offer intensive theater workshops led by highly qualified instructors recruited from across the nation. As a result, Butte's young people enjoyed a summer theater camp experience that rivaled camp experiences offered in larger metropolitan areas. Not only was this a wonderful opportunity for the local students but an exciting chance for the Orphan Girl Theatre to push its educational program forward, reaching a greater number of students and a higher standard of excellence in theater education."

Finally, the Orphan Girl Theatre has received another



A scene from the Orphan Girl Theatre's production of Antigone.

Photo: courtesy of the Butte Center for the Performing Arts.

grant. According to the President of the Butte Center, Helen Guthrie Miller, the Coming Up Taller Award helped persuade the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, based in Montana, to give \$75,000 over a three-year period. This represents the largest grant ever given by the Washington Foundation to an arts institution. Helen Guthrie Miller said, "The award...certainly put the exclamation point to peer recognition."

Conferred annually by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH), the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Coming Up Taller Awards recognize organizations that provide exemplary after-school programs in the arts and humanities. Each organization receives \$10,000.

Dana Gioia *Chairman*
 Donald V. Cogman
 Mary Costa
 Gordon Davidson
 Katharine Cramer DeWitt
 Makoto Fujimura
 David H. Gelernter
 Teresa Lozano Long
 James McBride
 Maribeth Walton McGinley
 Jerry Pinkney
 Cleo Parker Robinson
 Deedie Potter Rose
 Karen Lias Wolff

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 Sen. Mike DeWine *R-OH*
 Sen. Harry Reid *D-NV*
 Rep. Cass Ballenger *R-NC*
 Rep. Betty McCollum *D-MN*
 Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon *R-CA*

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The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts—both new and established—bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Endowment is the nation's largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases.

November

1-24 Shakespeare for a New Generation
 Montana Shakespeare in the Parks to perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and conduct workshops for high school students throughout Montana
For information:
www.shakespeareinamericancommunities.org
Contact: (202) 682-5732

9-14 Delfos Danza Contemporánea
 New York, NY
 NEA sponsored performances of the Mexican dance company at the Joyce Theatre
For information: www.joyce.org/delfos04.html
Contact: (202) 682-5562

18-21 National Council of Teachers of English
 Indianapolis, IN
 Panel to discuss *Reading at Risk* at the Indianapolis Convention Center
For information:
www.ncte.org/profdev/conv/annual
Contact: (202) 682-5654

19-20 Shakespeare in American Communities
 Reno, NV
 Artists Repertory Theatre, featuring actors from the Central Dramatic Company of Vietnam, presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Pioneer Center Theater
For information:
www.shakespeareinamericancommunities.org
Contact: (202) 682-5732

20 Delfos Danza Contemporánea
 Tucson, AZ
 NEA sponsored performance of the Mexican dance company at the University of Arizona's Centennial Hall
For information: www.uapresents.org
Contact: (202) 682-5562

22-23 Operation Homecoming
 Bellevue, NE
 Writers workshop with Stephen Lang and Larry Smith at Offutt Air Force Base
For information:
www.nea.gov/national/homecoming
Contact: (202) 682-5562

December

3 National Reading Conference
 San Antonio, TX
 Panel to discuss *Reading at Risk* at the Crowne Plaza Riverwalk Hotel
For information:
www.nrconline.org/conference/conf04.html
Contact: (202) 682-5654

7 Shakespeare for a New Generation
 Washington, DC
 The Shakespeare Theatre to perform *Pericles* for high school students from DC, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Fairfax County public schools
For information:
www.shakespeareinamericancommunities.org
 or www.shakespearedc.org
Contact: (202) 682-5732

10-11 NEA Jazz Masters
 New Orleans, LA
 Workshop/lecture and performance by Jimmy Heath at Loyola University
For information:
www.nea.gov/national/jazz/touring.html
Contact: (202) 682-5701

ON THE COVER:

Macbeth (Remi Sandri) and his Lady (Kathleen McCall) discuss their bloody business.
Photo: Phil Scarsbrook



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