

De la Cruz 'Tames' Shakespeare

By Amy Doan
Staff Writer

Kicking off this year's Highland Summer Theatre series is Edgardo de la Cruz's feminist version of "The Taming of the Shrew."

Emphasizing "taming," de la Cruz decided to retell Shakespeare's famous tale with a modern approach.

"In the original story, Katherine was a real shrew and was married off to Petruchio, who tames her so that she becomes a loving wife," de la Cruz explains. "This disturbs me, because nowadays that doesn't cut it."

"We abridged and revised the story to make it pro-feminist."

In de la Cruz's version, Katherine and Petruchio had already fallen in love after meeting in a marketplace. Now they must fool everyone into believing that he is taming her.

The main characters are played by Craig Marker and Lisa Dokken, who performed opposite each other in last month's "Decadence," directed by Roz Hilton.

De la Cruz chose the cast members based on their ability to dance as well as act.

"We've added six dances to

make it more enjoyable," he says. "It's also much shorter than the original because we have concentrated on the main plot."

De la Cruz points out several other differences between his version of the story and Shakespeare's.

Whereas Shakespeare often cast young boys as female characters, de la Cruz did just the opposite.

"And the speech in the end about being subservient to one's husband is delivered by both characters," he adds.

The play is set in modern Italy and will be touring in Europe next summer. Auditions were held in April, and the cast has been rehearsing for four weeks.

"The 'TAMING' of the Shrew" will be performed on July 20, 21, 27, and 28 at 8 p.m. and July 29 at 2 p.m.

The other two plays in this year's Highland Summer Theatre series will be "The Dining Room," directed by Ed Wright, and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," directed by Jodi Rice.

Persons wishing information about any of the performances may call the Studio Theatre's Box Office at (510) 885-3261.

Smoking More Prevalent in Teenagers

Smoking, from page one.

in the last month, up from 25 percent in 1992.

"I tried (cigarettes) in high school, got hooked when I studied abroad in Salzburg and made friendships with the smoking crowd," said 22-year-old Meredith Denton.

Today more than one third of teenagers are taking up the habit. Lung cancer patients indicated that the highest levels of damage in the DNA of lung cancer cells was found among those who started smoking in their teens.

"I started smoking when I was 16 and smoked regularly when I was 18. I've quit before but I've started up again because of stress," said 21-year-old Julie Perry.

According to a recent study in the Journal of the American Medical Association, second-hand smoke has a causal link to heart disease.

People exposed to second-hand smoke also have an increased risk of lung cancer, asthma and respiratory infections.

While mild symptoms include eye and throat irritation, exposure to secondhand smoke is responsible for more than 3,000 deaths in the United States yearly according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Both my parents, my grandma and my aunt smoke, but I've never been interested," said 19-year-old Leilani Rimando. "The smell is bad and

I think I'm getting affected by secondhand smoke. I have to keep the door to my room closed to keep the smoke out."

Many affected by second-hand smoke are children, whether in the womb, infants or older. Estimates indicate that babies are five times more likely to be victims of sudden infant death syndrome if their mothers smoke.

Paternal and maternal smoking is associated with low infant birth weight, respiratory tract infections, reduced lung functioning, build up of fluid in the middle ear and the develop-

ment or exacerbation of asthma.

Women are more likely to stop smoking during pregnancy, both spontaneously and with assistance, than at other times in their lives.

Even with the knowledge of adverse health effects during pregnancy, estimates of women who still smoke during pregnancy range from 12

percent (based on birth certificate data) up to 22 percent (based on survey data) according to the Surgeon General's report on women and smoking.

It says eliminating maternal smoking may lead to a 10 percent reduction in all infant deaths and a 12 percent reduction in deaths from prenatal conditions.

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