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Cape May Stage presents the Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey's

"A Midsummer Night's Dream"

During The New Jersey Theatre Alliance

13th Annual Family Week at the Theatre and The Stages Festival

Cape May Stage, in cooperation with the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, is thrilled to announce programming for the 13th Annual *Family Week at the Theatre and Stage Festival*. This annual statewide program, beginning March 6 and running throughout the month, offers free and discounted tickets to attendees, and was developed to encourage families to attend professional theatre together by making the experience affordable, educational, and exciting.

Cape May Stage's offerings this year include events for people of all ages. During the month of March, there will be a number of free and discounted arts-related events available to the residents of Cape May County.

For those young people looking to take a more active role in storytelling, Cape May Stage will be offering a weekly acting course for teenagers ages 12-17. The class will be held every Thursday afternoon in March from 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM. Cape May Stage's Education Outreach Coordinator, Donald Toal, will be teaching the courses, and is very excited for the opportunities it offers. Toal comments, "This is an ideal course for any young actor who loves being on stage. Even if you don't have acting experience (or even if you do), these courses give you the chance to explore what it takes to create a world full of living, breathing characters, and share that world with an audience that has never seen it before." The students will study essential acting techniques that focus on creating honest, believable, and (especially) fun performances. This

includes physical movement and vocal techniques, improvisational acting, and monologue/scene work. **Advance registration for the course is encouraged** but not required, but attendance for all four sessions is preferred and will allow students to get the most out of the program. Classes will be held at the Robert Shackleton Playhouse on the corner of Bank and Lafayette Streets in Cape May.

Children are not the only ones that can take advantage of the fun of Family Week—exciting programs are also offered for adults as well. Visitors to senior recreation centers in Cape May County will be treated to a trip back in time, in the form of a live reading of the classic radio play, *Sorry, Wrong Number*. Back by popular demand, local performers will bring this classic broadcast, originally performed by Agnes Moorehead in 1943, to life, complete with traditional radio music and ‘advertisements.’ The audience members will also have the opportunity to get a taste for acting themselves, through participation with the performers in several improvisational acting exercises. This unique event will be held on Mondays in March: on **March 8th**, 12:30 p.m. at the Lower Cape Senior Center in Villas; on **March 15th**, 1:30 p.m. at the Victorian Towers Complex in Cape May; and on **March 22nd**, 10:30 a.m. at the Upper Township Senior Center in Palermo. Call (609) 884-1341 for further details.

And lastly, Cape May Stage is thrilled to offer a full-scale production at the Playhouse from one of New Jersey’s premier Shakespeare Theater Companies. On **Saturday March 20th**, The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey’s touring production of “**Shakespeare LIVE!: A Midsummer Night’s Dream**” will be presented at 3 p.m. at the Robert Shackleton Playhouse. When starry-eyed young lovers and zany would-be actors cross paths with mischief-making fairies in a magical forest, the result is one of the world’s most uproarious comedies. This touring production offers a fresh, imaginative take on this perennial audience favorite. A Midsummer Night’s Dream is the ideal “first Shakespeare” for elementary grades, and a riotous roller coaster ride for teens, teachers, and adults. Tickets are **FREE** for children 18 and under, **and \$5.00** for adults.

All of these programs offered are **free and open to the public**, and a great opportunity to enjoy the theatre arts at its finest. For more information, please contact Cape May Stage at (609)- 884-1341.

The Stages Festival including ***Family Week at the Theatre*** is a co-sponsored project of The New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

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