University's Shakespeare at Winedale program presents rare performances of *Pericles Prince of Tyre*

By Nancy Neff

For the first time in 22 summers at the Winedale Historical Center, students in the Shakespeare at Winedale program will present the rarely performed *Pericles Prince of Tyre*. Written late in his career, *Pericles* was the first of Shakespeare's four romances.

"This summer will provide an unusual opportunity for our audience to see a work that merits more exploration and exposure," said Dr. James B. Ayres, the UT Austin English professor who has taught the Shakespeare at Winedale course since he conceived it in 1970.

*Pericles*, Ayres said, has long been considered to be inferior because it is thought to have been a collaboration with other playwrights. "But the surprising thing is that *Pericles* seems to be Shakespeare's most theatrical play," he said. "A recent revival of interest in the play around the country bears out this observation."

The other two plays being performed this summer are *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *King Lear*. Performances begin in the theater barn at Winedale July 30 and end Aug. 18.

Each summer, Ayres selects students from the UT system and from other colleges and universities across the country. This year, 17 students will participate in the Shakespeare at Winedale program.

The students receive course credit for their work at Winedale, where they devote their days and nights to exploring the texts through close study, discussion, improvisation and regular performances for each other before public performances begin. The students also make their own costumes and are responsible for sound and lighting.

Students, many of whom have never performed before coming to Winedale, work and perform in a converted 19th-century barn, open to the outdoors on two sides. A reception follows each performance.

*Pericles* will be performed July 31, Aug. 6, Aug. 8 and Aug. 16 at 7:30 P.M. and at 2 p.m. on Aug. 2 and Aug. 15. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be performed July 30, Aug. 1, Aug. 9 and Aug. 14 at 7:30 p.m. and at 2 p.m. on Aug. 8 and Aug. 16. *King Lear* will be performed Aug. 2, Aug. 7, Aug. 13 and Aug. 15 at 7:30 P.M. and at 2 p.m. on Aug. 1 and Aug. 9.

Tickets for the performances are $4 each.

For reservations, call the Winedale Historical Center at 409-278-3530, or write Shakespeare at Winedale, P.O. Box 11, Round Top, Texas 78954.