Shakespeare at Winedale presents

The Merry Wives of Windsor

TUESDAY - April 26 @ 7pm
Black Box Theatre, Student Activity Center, UT Campus

FRIDAY & SATURDAY - April 29 & 30 @ 7pm
Winedale Theatre Barn, Round Top, Texas
Tonight's performance is the culmination of a semester of work by the students of E321P: Shakespeare Through Performance. These students have studied Shakespeare and situation comedy from a variety of perspectives, reading, writing, discussing, and performing, both at the University of Texas at Austin and on weekends at the Winedale Historical Center.

About Us
Shakespeare at Winedale is a program of the University of Texas at Austin English Department that invites students from all disciplines to learn about Shakespeare through the intensive experience of performing his works. Since 1970, hundreds of students have taken the stage in the Winedale Theatre Barn, using all their intelligence, creativity and passion to bring these plays to life. Students in the course dedicate themselves to the principles of Shakespeare's own theatre: a bare stage, a creative ensemble, a focus on the text, and an appeal to the imagination of the audience.

Special Thanks
Winedale Historical Center Staff
Elizabeth Cullingford, UT English Department Chair
Doc Ayres
Dramatis Personae

MISTRESS MARGARET PAGE, a wife of Windsor........................................... Nichole Palmietto
MASTER GEORGE PAGE, her husband.......................................................... Steve Karson
ANNE PAGE, their daughter.......................................................................... Ryan Hirsch
WILLIAM PAGE, a schoolboy, their son......................................................... Erin Anderson
MISTRESS ALICE FORD, a wife of Windsor.................................................. Kelsi Tyler
MASTER FRANK FORD, her husband............................................................ Connor Pickens
JOHN, their servant....................................................................................... Kevin Vermillion
ROBERT, their servant................................................................................... Sam Liebl
SIR JOHN FALSTAFF...................................................................................... Sean Gallagher
ROBIN, his page.............................................................................................. Ryan Hirsch
BARDOLPH, his follower................................................................................ Kevin Vermillion
PISTOL, his follower...................................................................................... Erin Anderson
NYM, his follower.......................................................................................... Alyssa Davis
SIR HUGH EVANS, a Welsh parson................................................................. Lily Wolff
DOCTOR CAIUS, a French physician............................................................... Erwan Chabert
MISTRESS QUICKLY, his housekeeper............................................................ Monica Gully
JOHN RUGBY, his servant............................................................................... Kevin Vermillion
ROBERT SHALLOW, a country justice of the peace........................................ Allison Dillon
ABRAHAM SLENDER, his nephew................................................................. Blake Martin
PETER SIMPLE, Slender's servant................................................................. Alyssa Davis
HOST of the Garter Inn.................................................................................. Brandon Hernandez
FENTON, a gentleman in love with Anne Page............................................. Sam Liebl
Thank you

Shakespeare at Winedale thanks the following individuals, foundations, and organizations for their generous support of this program, Shakespeare at Winedale Outreach, and Camp Shakespeare. Your gifts make great Shakespeare and educational programs available to our entire community. Thank you for 41 years of enthusiastic support. We couldn’t do it without you.

Please note the list below reflects contributions received from January 1, 2010 to April 1, 2011.

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Play Synopsis

The Merry Wives of Windsor is a situation comedy set in the town of Windsor among members of the middle class. The action surrounds the misadventures of Sir John Falstaff, a favorite character from Shakespeare's Henry IV plays, famed for his wit, outrageous behavior, and obesity. Falstaff and his rough cronies have been harassing the citizens of Windsor with their drunk and disorderly behavior when Falstaff decides he needs a new form of entertainment and income.

He becomes enamored of two ladies, Mistress Page and Mistress Ford, both very respectable and very married women of the town. However, his plots to enjoy the company and money of both of the wives run aground when the witty women compare his love letters and swear revenge. They plan to humiliate Falstaff and teach him a lesson by leading him on and then trapping him in ridiculous situations, forcing him to be shuttled out of Mistress Ford's house first in a laundry basket and then dressed as an old woman.

Things become more complicated when Mistress Ford's extremely jealous husband Master Ford gets wind of Falstaff's advances. He immediately doubts his virtuous wife and goes undercover to investigate. When he unsuccessfully surprises the wives in an attempt to catch Falstaff and Mistress Ford in an intrigue, the wives decide to teach him a lesson as well. Meanwhile, three men - the foolish Master Slender, the hot-tempered French doctor Caius, and the dashing Fenton - are vying for the hand of the beautiful Anne Page, Mistress Page's daughter, in marriage. The antics of the suitors and of the respective friends and supporters escalate into a misbegotten duel, one of the climactic comic moments of the play.

Mistress Ford and Mistress Page's plots come to fruition in the final scene set in Windsor Forest. The wives have lured Falstaff with promises and enjoined him to come in the guise of the legendary Herne the Hunter, with a deer's antlers on his head. Here, his sins are exposed to the general hilarity of the Windsor townfolk and the Fords save their marriage, but the tide turns on the Page family when they discover who has married their daughter at the end of the day.
Coming Up

UT CHILDREN'S SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL
May 12 & 13
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June 5 - 18 & June 26 - July 9
Round Top, Texas

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As You Like It, Hamlet, Henry VI, Parts 2 & 3
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Winedale Theatre Barn

For more information, visit shakespeare-winedale.org

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