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will be Hammitt-McDonald's third. "It's really cool to have the contrast between a couple of traditional Elizabethan-dressed characters and some more otherworldly characters," Hammitt-McDonald said.

Hammitt-McDonald and her husband, Seth Goldstein, will also present a demonstration of Japanese sword fighting to accompany "The Keeper," a song from the Elizabethan era. For the couple, Shakespeare's appeal has persisted over decades because of how well his characters and situations were constructed.

"It's so clear what people's emotions are and what they're dealing with," Goldstein said. Hammitt-McDonald echoed this sentiment. "You could tell (Shakespeare) loved human beings, even at their most obnoxious and annoying, and that is universal and timeless," she said, "you can see characters in his plays who are like people today."

No fear Shakespeare

One of the first steps in presenting Shakespeare's work to a modern audience is to help them get comfortable with its unfamiliar language. That's what the Coaster Theatre seeks to accomplish with the casual nature of the summer Shakespeare program.

"One of the gifts this play brings to the community is helping (audiences) with the fear factor," Hammitt-McDonald said. "You realize, 'oh, wow, if I can kind of penetrate past these unfamiliar words, I can see these are feelings and situations human beings have always dealt with,'" she added.

Leonard Hoge, 14, agreed. "It's really enjoyable," Hoge added. He also appreciates being part of an opportunity for the public to gather for entertainment. "It's always a fun time to see the community come out and come together in the park to see a live production," Hoge said.

'Shakesperience: Ghosts, Fairies & Spirits'

Cannon Beach City Park,
2nd and Spruce streets

6 p.m. on Friday

Additional performances at 6 p.m. on June 24 in Cannon Beach City Park, 3 p.m. on June 29 at the Coaster Theatre Courtyard and 7:30 p.m. on July 8 at the Coaster Theatre Playhouse

This event is free and open to the public, with donations welcome

www.coastertheatre.com



Katherine Lacaze

Director Patrick Lathrop, center, samples costume ideas on the cast of Coaster Theatre Playhouse's 'Shakesperience: Ghosts, Fairies and Spirits.'



Cast members at the Coaster Theatre Playhouse.

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