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1999 The Portland Observer

The Taming of the Shrew

Fasten your seatbelts as award-winning director Gretchen Corbett and a cast of Portland's brightest actors throw a "The Taming of the Shrew" production as it's never been imagined.

Tygres Heart Shakespeare Company is opening its 1999-2000 season with a radical reinvention of the classic comedy, scripted by playwright Tania Myren. Beginning Sept. 30 and running through Nov. 7, 1999, the Company presents Shakespeare with a Tygres twist.

"It's sex, violence and classic verse," Corbett said. "It's a man and a woman engaged in a joyously erotic struggle that results in the forging of a passionately equal partnership. We took Shakespeare's Shrew and torqued it to give the audience a play that will resonate with contemporary issues."

Myren has replaced Shakespeare's outer frame, which is omitted in many Shrew productions, with one that speaks directly to Portland theater-goers. The audience will meet a contemporary Shakespearean company in receivership on their opening night just as the re-po man has carted off their set and costumes. They will work through their separate and combined destinies as they present "The Taming of the Shrew" with style and outrageous finesse.

"The Taming of the Shrew" is the first in a series of three plays in Tygres Heart's 1999-2000 season. The play precedes "Romeo and Juliet," beginning in January, and "Macbeth," beginning in April.

To accommodate the needs of

performances will be presented and all shows are wheelchair accessible. In addition to full-length performances, the company will present an abridged, full-dress Family Matinee version of the play on Sunday, Oct. 24, at 2 PM. The whole family is invited to meet the actors following the performance.

Tygres Heart Shakespeare Company, Portland's only all-Shakespearean theater, was founded in 1989. The non-profit company is committed to bringing Shakespeare productions of the highest caliber to diverse audiences and is nationally recognized for its commitment to making Shakespeare accessible to all. All performances are held at the Dolores Winningstad Theatre in the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, located at 1111 SW Broadway, Portland, Ore. Performance times are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7 PM, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM, and Sundays at 2 PM. Season tickets are available. For more information, call the Tygres Heart Box Office at 503/288-8400, or Ticketmaster at 503/790-ARTS.



Photo by Jamie Bosworth

Timothy Hyland as Petruchio and Luisa Sermol as Kate

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