



Mississippi
 Alberta
 North Portland

METRO

Vancouver
 East County
 Beaverton



PHOTO BY JENNY GRAHAM

Disguised as a male actor, Viola (Jamie Ann Romero) sneaks a moment of tenderness with Will (William DeMeritt) in "Shakespeare in Love," one of the diverse plays this season at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland.

Beyond White Culture

Diversity at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival has opened all but one of its eleven shows for 2017. Why should you travel down to Ashland to partake?

For all the challenges that living in this state -- and, indeed, traveling to southern Oregon specifically--presents for people of color, some of the best theater anywhere is happening at OSF. We have the opportunity to see the stories of people of color, written by people of color, and featuring artists of color who, as in other fields, otherwise disproportionately struggle for work. Increasingly,

OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY

DARLEEN ORTEGA

OSF is a place where theater casts the vision for living beyond white supremacy culture.

My favorite of this season's plays, unfortunately, closed on July 6 -- but I write about it first because the production will be re-mounted by Portland Center Stage this fall. Its name, "Mojada," is a racial epithet--in English, it would be "wetback," a derogatory term applied to people crossing the southern U.S. border without papers. But the playwright, Luis Alfaro, himself the son

of Mexican-American farmworkers, is known for lifting up the voices of the marginalized with sensitivity and respect, and this play goes deep in its exploration of life among Mexican immigrants in Los Angeles.

The subtitle of "Mojada" is "A Medea in Los Angeles," and Alfaro has taken the ancient Greek story of Medea and located it among immigrants fighting to build a

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