

Dream: Shakespeare modernized for youth

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Shane Mickelson, 14, plays an actor in the production, and so ends up playing multiple roles.

As Francis Flute, he is part of a cast within a cast, putting on a special drama-turned-accidental-comedy production in honor of a royal wedding.

"At one point, I have to play a girl named Thisbe," Shane said, which is the most challenging part of this play. "I have to act like something I'm not — a woman. I can't really do a good girl's voice because my voice cracks. The clothes you have to wear are scratchy."

Playing Flute playing Thisbe, Shane said he started to feel a little empathy for women, especially in the old times, having to wear such scratchy dresses.

A young actress piped up, "That's what we like to wear!"

The normally three-hour play was shortened significantly and modernized for the young actors, said Anderson, an adjunct professor at WOU and local playwright.



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Lysander (Joseph Harriman) and Hermia (Jillian Flanagan) scheme on how to get married without Hermia's father putting her to death because of their actions.

"Shakespeare says everything five times," she said. "I went through and could take out the three times that weren't as good as the other two."

While she kept the language intact as much as possible — all the lines people will expect to hear were kept — other words were modernized.

"There's just archaic language that nobody uses anymore," Anderson said.

Calling all cake bakers

Polk County Fair seeks talent of all sorts

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

POLK COUNTY — If you have a hidden talent — such as growing what you think are prize tomatoes in your garden, a knack for baking the perfect cake, or an eye for photography — you should show it off at the 2015 Polk County Fair.

"We have a lot of very talented people in Polk County," said Anna Scharf, fair board chairwoman. "Bring us your talent in our open class exhibits. It's more than canning, it's more than quilts. Showcase your personal talent at our fair."

And you still have plenty of time to sign up for the fair's open class exhibits. Fair Manager Tina Andersen said people have been calling about the deadline for open class exhibits, thinking they have missed it.

"They think they have to preregister, so they get close and think it's too late," Andersen said.

It's not. Unlike 4-H exhibits, most open class entries for adults, juniors and youth aren't due until just days before fair, Aug. 6-8.

Categories include art-work, photography, potted plants, vegetables raised in a garden, farm products (including honey and grains), forestry products (including Christmas trees),



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer file

Canned cherries present well at 2014 Polk County Fair.

Open class entry schedule:

- Poetry — July 22.
- Fine arts, photography, crafts, textiles, youth arts and crafts — Aug. 3.
- Foods — Aug. 4.
- Grains, honey, forestry; floriculture; horticulture — Aug. 5.

Entries are taken from noon to 8 p.m. at the fair office, 520 S. Pacific Highway West (99W) on the designated day. For a full list of open class categories, see an exhibitor book online at www.co.polk.or.us/fair.

For more information: Polk County Fair Office, 503-623-3048.

crafts and textiles.

"I don't think people really understand the breadth of classes they can enter things in at the fair," Scharf said.

Professional judges evaluate each category and winners earn prizes — either gift cards or cash donated by area businesses.

"There is an opportunity for you to get recognized in our county for your talent

and also receive a little bit of a gift certificate or a prize cash award," Scharf said.

She added open class is a great place for children who don't have time to join a 4-H club or FFA to participate in the fair with other talents.

"They can still enter that beautiful piece of art that they did at school this year under our junior class or our youth classes," she said.

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