



Bag & Baggage presents blended 'Taming of the Shrew' & 'A Woman's Prize'

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Bag&Baggage Artistic Director Scott Palmer has adapted Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew," trimmed it, and combined it with John Fletcher's "A Woman's Prize," which opens Friday, Feb. 12, in Hillsboro.

The melded plays features the tables turned on the men as the women seek their revenge.

Fletcher was a contemporary of Shakespeare, and actually more popular than the Bard, said Palmer. His play, subtitled "The Tamer Tamed," is considered by some to be a proto-feminist piece, written as a response to "Shrew," completing the circle of comedic battle of the sexes.

For the first time, Bag & Baggage will present the play in its original period, including costume and scenery.

It also will be presented in the original acting style of the Elizabethan era, said Palmer, with fast-paced, direct address, playing to the audience that at the time often was being distracted by other things around them.

An area of seats in the Venetian Theatre, 253 East Main Street, have been removed to allow for a thrust coming out into the audience, where some audience members will be allowed to sit around on benches, as groundlings in the Old Globe did.

The production features Bag&Baggage founding company member Maggie Chapin, who plays dual roles of Kate and Maria. She most recently was an ensemble member in B&B's adapted "A Christmas Carol," Linda Loman in "Death of a Salesman," and Jack/Earnest Worthing in "The Importance of Being Earnest."

Others acting in the production are Ian Armstrong, Nate Axt, William Goblirsch, Jr., David Heath, Nikolas Hoback, Chrissy Kelly, Brooke Markham, Jacob Morehead, Christine Shields, Gary Strong and Norman Wilson.

The production team includes lighting expert Ben Crop, costume designer Allison Dawe, dramaturg Rachel Foran, designer Drew Foster, stage manager Karen Johnson, and production manager Audra L. Petrie Veber.

"I have been contemplating this adaptation for ten years, ever since I became aware of (and a little obsessed by) the plays and the life of John Fletcher," said Palmer.

"There are a number of things that make our production unique," he added. "It is the first time in American history that Shakespeare's work 'The Taming of the Shrew' has been produced with 'The Woman's Prize' as two halves of a single play and this will be the first 'Shakespearey' Shakespeare play we have ever done as a company. Usually our adaptations take the form of modernizing the style, or

including original source materials, or some other visual and stylistic alteration to the plays. Given that this script is just Shakespeare and Fletcher, with a little bit of me thrown in, we are going to give our audiences a good old fashioned groundlings show - dirty, dangerous, sexy, bawdy, fast and furious."

"The Taming of the Shrew/The Woman's Prize" previews Feb. 10 and 11, 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$12.

Opening performances will be Friday, Feb. 12, 7:30 and tickets are \$18-23. The play runs Thursdays through Saturdays, at 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m., through Feb. 28.

For tickets, go to www.bagnbaggage.org or call 503-516-4840.