

**SHE LAUGHS BEST WHO LAUGHS LAST—
BAG&BAGGAGE PRESENTS A WORLD PREMIER: THE TAMING OF THE
SHREW AND THE WOMAN'S PRIZE, TOGETHER IN ONE NIGHT**

***The Battle of the Sexes in Two Acts; William Shakespeare and
John Fletcher Go Another Round***

Hillsboro, OR—January 18, 2010—For modern audiences, William Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* is perhaps the Bard's most controversial play. The ending is particularly problematic for many; after physical and emotional violence, the formerly rebellious, now "tamed," Kate accepts her husband Petruchio with these words, "such duty as the subject owes the prince, even...a woman owes her husband."

Playwright John Fletcher (1579–1625) was among the most prolific and influential dramatists of his day; at the time, he was

more popular than Shakespeare. Fletcher followed Shakespeare as the house playwright for the King's Men, and was Shakespeare's only known and acknowledged collaborator...

although they were also fierce rivals.

Around 1611, John Fletcher did what no other playwright dared to do; he wrote a pointed response to Shakespeare's *Shrew*, a sequel he called *The Woman's Prize, or the Tamer Tamed*. *The Woman's Prize* brings back many of the same characters found in *Shrew*, although in this play Kate has died and Petruchio is about to marry a new wife, Maria, who will, as the subtitle indicates, turn the gender tables—and tame the "tamer." As one of the most progressive and clearly feminist works ever written during the Elizabethan period, *The Woman's Prize* was hugely controversial in its day, but has gone largely ignored in recent years.

In 2003, The Royal Shakespeare Company gave full performances of the two plays on the same run, for the first time in about 370 years, and other theatre companies have mounted one or the other play in repertory, but the two shows have never been adapted together as a single story, until now.

**The Prologue From Bag&Baggage's
*The Taming of The Shrew & The
Woman's Prize***

Ladies,

It is to you that we, poor actors, speak this night.
'Twas Shakespeare's Muse did bring us first this fight |
A battle without blood, and t'will be well fought too, |
But fear not, victory will be yours, though got with much ado!

Shakespeare, aye, the shrew did tame | But it is Fletcher's bolt that flies with most deadly aim.
It may be the first that sings across the ages still
But it is in the second that the women work their will!

Tonight, brave souls, will we a new Comedy present, |
A rivulet of pure wit for your solemnity to prevent, |
Filled with fancy, humor, and all other parts that may |
Add grace, style and ornament to a most merry Play.

Which, we hope, this may prove. Yet not go too far
In promises from this, our little gender war.
We do entreat, ladies and men, you would not
Expect the mazes of a too subtle plot,
Nor set Speeches, high expressions, or what's worse, |
In a true Comedy, political discourse.

The end we aim at is to make you sport;
And neither gall the City, nor the Court.
Hear, and observe our Comic strain and when
Y'are sick of melancholy, come see't again!

For tonight, indeed, you shall see the taming of a shrew |
And, that tamer, in turn, will be tamed anew!

Bag&Baggage Productions Presents a
World Premier—Two Plays with the
Same Characters

**The Taming of the Shrew/
The Woman's Prize**

Previews Feb 10 & 11, 7:30 - \$12

Opening Fri Feb 12, 7:30

Runs Thurs-Sun Feb 28 - \$18-23

Eves 7:30pm, Sun Matinees at 2:00pm

The Venetian Theatre
253 East Main Street
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Tickets:

- \$12 for previews Feb 10 & 11
- \$18 - \$23 Feb 12-28

Online at www.bagnbaggage.org

Or by phone at 503-516-4840

“*The Taming of the Shrew* is a problematic comedy for modern audiences, as it depicts some pretty horrific behavior towards women. John Fletcher’s sequel, *The Woman’s Prize*, is also a comedy, but one of the most forward looking and progressive ever written during the Elizabethan period. It is as though Fletcher finished Shakespeare’s play, and, produced together, they comprise a much more balanced work.

“We’ve adapted each play into one act so they can be presented together in the same evening, allowing our audience to really see how the stories cross and how *The Woman’s Prize* resolves some of the problems that *The Taming of the Shrew* generates. We feel the production will make for a hysterical and thought provoking evening’s entertainment.”

—Scott Palmer, Artistic Director,
Bag&Baggage Productions

Bag&Baggage Productions is pleased to present a world premier adaptation of Shakespeare’s *Shrew* alongside Fletcher’s hysterical sequel, *The Woman’s Prize*, back-to-back as two halves of a single story. The production features a cast of Bag&Baggage favorites, such as Maggie Chapin as Katherina and Maria and Jacob Morehead as Petruchio, along with newcomers Normal Wilson as Lucentio and Chrissy Kelly as Bianca.

CHARITY/BENEFIT NOTES:

The Thursday, February 11th performance is a Bag&Baggage charity night; \$5 of each ticket sold will go to \$5 of every ticket goes to The Salvation Army West Women's & Children's shelter and Domestic Violence Resource Center, Monika's House. See <http://www.dvrc-or.org/> for more information.

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AboutBag&Baggage

Bag&Baggage was created in 2005 as a professional theatre company based in Hillsboro, Oregon, to produce live theatre in Oregon communities without a resident professional company of their own.

The company is now the theatre-in-residence at the historic Venetian Theatre in downtown Hillsboro. We focus on the classics of English and American drama. As a text-based company, we hew to the playwright’s vision for the play, always seeking to bring a fresh look—we call it, “Seeing a classic again, for the first time.” We always partner our work with educational programs for local students. Our mission is to inspire Oregonians to engage in creative, accessible and moving live-theatre experiences. Bag&Baggage is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

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