

NEWS RELEASE



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Alabama Shakespeare Festival Woos Audiences with Repertory “Season of Romance”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTGOMERY, AL (Monday, April 7, 2008) The Alabama Shakespeare Festival invites audiences to fall in love with repertory theatre with its “Season of Romance” which includes Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* and *Cymbeline* and Alexandre Dumas’ *The Count of Monte Cristo* adapted and directed by Charles Morey. All three tales of love, adventure and suspense run on the Festival Stage through June 29.

Romeo and Juliet directors Geoffrey Sherman (ASF Producing Artistic Director) and Diana Van Fossen (Director, *Henry VI part A*, *Trojan Women* at ASF) have played up the passion and urgency of young love by setting the classic love story in a present day Miami-like city with art-deco homes, up to the minute fashions and a current top 40 soundtrack.

The cast features **Avery Clark** (*Journey’s End* at the Alley Theatre) as Romeo, **Adriana Gaviria** (*Hermanas* at FringeNYC, *Anna in the Tropics* at Dallas Theatre Center, Arizona Theatre Company and Pasadena Playhouse) as Juliet, **Anthony Marble** (*Othello* at the Cincinnati Playhouse, Denver Post Ovation Award) as Mercutio, **J Paul Nicholas** (Ibsen’s *Rosmersholm* at 59E59 Theatres, Attorney Linden Delroy on *Law & Order: SVU*) as Tybalt, **Anne-Marie Cusson** (*Echoes of War* at the Mint Theatre with Frances Sternhagen) as the Nurse and **Rodney Clark** (*Death of a Salesman* at ASF) as Friar Laurence. Scenic design by **Robert F. Wolin** (Assistant Scenic Designer on Broadway’s *Young Frankenstein*, *The Producers*, *Flower Drum Song* and *Never Gonna Dance*), costume design by **Elizabeth Novak** (ASF Resident Costume Designer), lighting design by **Lonnie Alcaraz** (2006 Season at Utah Shakespeare Festival, *LETHE* at Cornerstone Theatre Company) and sound design by **Richelle Thompson** (ASF Resident Sound Designer).

Romeo and Juliet begins performances with previews on Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12 at 7:30 PM. The Opening matinee is on Sunday, April 13 at 2:00 PM.

Cymbeline, which is also directed by Geoffrey Sherman, features production design inspired by paintings by artists like Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema. The production takes a look back at ancient England through a Pre-Raphaelite lens, with marble staircases, classical Greek-inspired dresses and a warm, gossamer glow surrounding the entire play.

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The cast features **Sarah Dandridge** (*As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Merchant of Venice* at Colorado Shakespeare Festival) as Imogen, **Anthony Marble** (*Othello* at the Cincinnati Playhouse, Denver Post Ovation Award) as Posthumus, **Matt D’Amico** (*Hamlet* and *Caucasian Chalk Circle* at South Coast Repertory) as Iachimo, **Rodney Clark** (*Death of a Salesman* at ASF) as Cymbeline, **Diana Van Fossen** (*Progress* at Hudson Guild, *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Pioneer Theatre Company) as the Queen, and **David Dortch** (ASF MFA student) as Cloten. Original music composed by **James Conely** (multiple credits at ASF, numerous ASCAP awards for *Moses! Moses!* at Bonfils Theatre, Denver), scenic design by **Robert F. Wolin** (assistant designer on Broadway’s *Young Frankenstein*, *The Producers*, *Flower Drum Song* and *Never Gonna Dance*), costume design by **Elizabeth Novak** (ASF Resident Costume Designer), lighting design by **Phil Monat** (Obie Award for *A Woman Before A Glass*, Drama Desk Award for *Goblin Market*) and sound design by **Richelle Thompson** (ASF Resident Sound Designer).

Cymbeline begins performances with previews on Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26 at 7:30 PM. The Opening matinee is on Sunday, April 27 at 2:00 PM.

Charles Morey’s adaptation of Alexandre Dumas’ *The Count of Monte Cristo* receives its second major regional theatre production at ASF this summer. Directed by Morey (Artistic Director, Pioneer Theatre Company) the production brings this action-packed revenge tale to life with lavish costumes and brilliant sets that make this classic an ASF must-see.

The cast features long-time ASF favorite **Ray Chambers** (*Richard III* at ASF, *Tartuffe* at Two Rivers Theatre, Colorado) as the Edmund Dantes, **Sarah Dandridge** (*As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Merchant of Venice* at Colorado Shakespeare Festival) as Mercedes, **Anthony Marble** (*Othello* at the Cincinnati Playhouse, Denver Post Ovation Award) as Fernand, **Chet Carlin** (*First Monday* on Broadway with Henry Fonda) as the Abbé Faria. Original music composed by **James Prigmore** (Pioneer Theatre Company, TV’s *Starsky and Hutch*), scenic design by **George Maxwell** (Pioneer Theatre Company, Utah Opera Company), costume design by **Brenda Van der Wiel** (*Trojan Women*, *Death of a Salesman* at ASF, University of Utah faculty), lighting design by **Phil Monat** (Obie Award for *A Woman Before A Glass*, Drama Desk Award for *Goblin Market*), and sound design by **Joseph Payne** (Pioneer Theatre Company, Utah Shakespeare Theatre).

The Count of Monte Cristo begins performances with previews on Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3 at 7:30 PM. The Opening matinee is on Sunday, May 4 at 2:00 PM.

All three repertory shows run through the weekend of June 27 – 29 and are available in “Extreme Weekends” on May 9 – 11, 16 – 18, May 30 – June 1, and every weekend in June. Tickets are \$19 - \$42. Subscription packages save 20% on tickets to the “Season of Romance.” For more information call the ASF box office at 1-800-841-4ASF or go to www.ASF.net.

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is among the largest Shakespeare theatres in the world. Designated as The State Theatre of Alabama, ASF has been located in Montgomery since 1985 when it moved from Anniston as a result of Mr. and Mrs. Wynton M. Blount’s gift of a performing arts complex set in the 250-acre Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park.

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