Modern Shakespeare

**BY KATHRYN BUKER**

Staff Writer

“Romeo and Juliet?” hit Bay Area stages this week at the Cal State East Bay theatre under the direction of Melissa Hillman, coming to life in modern-day society with all actors dressed in 2009 fashions.

The actors took on the roles that Shakespeare developed so many years ago. The lines were not delivered in iambic pentameter, but in the speech cadence of today’s society.

Romeo, played by UCLA student Jack Jaffe, wore a flannel shirt and jeans and gave a passionate rendition of the hopelessly romantic, warranting nothing more than to find his love.

Juliet, played by Bay Area resident Luisa Frasconi, always wore light-hearted sundresses, giving the character a much more childlike feel.

Most unexpected was the part of Mercutio, which was played by CSUEB graduate and theater major Roberta Inscho. Mercutio, who is normally played by a male, was actually portrayed by a female in Hillman’s production.

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The show had intriguing fight scenes and interesting stage movement, never leaving the audience bored.

The scene, while simple, was not overlooked. Black stairs led to Juliet’s balcony and used to roll wall to make different sets (including the background to Juliet’s room) added an interesting element.

The cast exerted a laid back talent, not too overpowering but also keeping the audience intrigued.

One of the most exciting parts of this production was the music between scenes—each song goes with what is taking place on stage at that time and keeps the audience glued to the show even when no one is on stage.

Shakespeare can be hard to understand, but with help from Hillman and the CSUEB cast, Shakespeare is enjoyable and accessible.

Additional performances will be August 14, 15 and 16, and tickets are only $5 for students.

Romeo and Juliet: The two lovers share a passionate kiss.

**A&E**

**A Journey Through Evolution**

**BY ROB VALDEZ**

Staff Writer

Journey fans rocked out in Danville’s upscale Blackhawk Plaza as the city continued its 2009 Summer Concert Series Aug. 7 with the San Francisco-based Journey tribute band, Evolution.

As Danville residents poured into the plaza in huge numbers, they filled the aquatic-laden seating area and overflowed into walkways. They took seats on rocks and brush areas while others crowded staircases and even played in the only non-walkable areas in the crowd.

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**A Film With Joie De Vivre**

**BY BRIANNA HEADSTEN**

Staff Writer

Foodies and fans of Julia Child lined up Aug. 7 to see “Julie & Julia,” starring Meryl Streep as Julia Child and Amy Adams as Powell (Amy Adams), a woman with the same name, and Julia Child’s memoir, “My Life in France.”

“Julie & Julia” follows Julie Powell (Amy Adams), a woman who sets out to complete every recipe from Julia Child’s “Mastering the Art of French Cooking” in 265 days.

She blogs about both her successes and struggles as she tries to complete the $24 recipes in the classic cookbook.

Over the course of the movie each woman discovers her passion for cooking and works toward turning it into a career. With the support of loving husbands—and with family and friends encouraging them along the way—they are able to experience success.

The movie seamlessly weaves the two women’s lives. Powell’s story was set in Queens, New York in 2002 and Child’s in 1956 Paris. Both lives ran parallel to each other. However, I did not think the story was explored as fully as it could have possibly been.

Meryl Streep, who completely captured Julia Child in every way, did an excellent job. Her voice perfectly mimicked Child’s unique tone as well as her mannerisms and off-beat charm. Through special sets and camera angles, Streep also appeared to tower over her fellow actors in order to replicate Child’s six foot two inch frame.

**Bon Appétit!**

PS: Although the outdoor concert only lasted an hour, Evolution kept the audience in their seats (including the back of the band) with their air-guitaring and flashy dance moves from the bassist and guitarist. Evolution emphasized the energy and professionalism that Journey has brought to their sold-out crowds for decades.

“Although they don’t look like Journey, they sound dead-on,” said Dave DeAngelo, 53, as he remembered Journey concerts he had attended as a young adult.

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