A&E 'Scapin' Won't Cheat its Audiences Marathon Pirate Movie not Buried or Treasure

By Benjamin Potter

The Pioneer

he campus play, "Scapin, the Cheat," was revised and directed by Ulises Alcala and Dawn Williams to give a modernized perspective to a 17th-century comedy written by playwright Moliere.

In the new version, Alcala and Williams changed aspects of the play in order to make it more accessible to a modern audience. Among other things they adapted the language to a modern English-listening audience and adding sound effects.

The hour-and-a-half long play, which began last weekend and will continue Friday and Saturday in the Studio Theatre, is about two families who haphazardly fall together in a comedic wedding.

In order to get the families to wed each other, Scapin extorts money and contorts the truth. The greatest laughter comes when Scapin deceives an old woman to hide in a trashcan to avoid dangerous foes.

The modernization of the play changed the performance's misé-enscene-everything on the stage except the actors and the script. Instead of 17th century garb, the actors—from the Aces Wild theatre group—wore '70s "disco fever" clothing.

The directors created a cross between a proscenium and thrust stage with a simple backdrop the size of a 10-by-12-foot wall. The proscenium stage—much like a modern movie screen where curtains frame the screen—does not protrude further than the curtains.

The real difference is not just in the visual aspect of the play but in the "water downed" 17th-century language and the addition of sound effects to help with the punch lines. "(The effects are) added to the

humor in order to punctuate the language," Williams said. Aces Wild faces a long road

ahead, as they will travel to San Francisco to perform a special abridged addition on Sunday before heading to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland. The Edinburgh festival is a worldwide affair that showcases a multitude of performance groups.

"(Aces Wild) is working out the kinks," Alcala said. "We wanted to update on the road, so it is something to travel with.

Yoshi's: Music, Cocktails, Jazz and More

By Danielle Haight

A t Yoshi's Jazz House and Japa-nese Restaurant, it's the "idea of jazz and sushi together" that keeps drawing people in.

These are the words of Jesse Levit, 23, an employee at the jazz venue and restaurant that is one of the key businesses in Oakland's Jack London Square area

Located on the corner of Embarcadero and Washington streets, Yoshi's is in the heart of Oakland and nearly on the edge of the Bay. This is not your ordinary Japanese dining room, however: Yoshi's is a restaurant on one side and a jazz house on the other, with a full bar in between.

"It has all three: bar, restaurant and club all in one," Levit said. "You can do it all in one place.

From the ceiling down to the floor, the place is loaded with culture and unique surprises. The ceilings are vaulted with stylish hanging lights and the entrance has a Japanese motif. Two steps up from the restaurant lounge is a tatami seating area with Japanese curtains and a quaint place to keep your shoes before entering.

Visitors can watch the chefs make their sushi at the sushi bar or can choose to order their sushi and one of their special pommarita drinks—a pomegranate version of a margarita—in the Jazz House while watching a live band.

Although there are large windows looking out on the city and its nightlife, there are hundreds of paintings and photographs of jazz musicians and pieces of Japanese art along the walls for customers to enjoy.

Behind the hostess' desk is a picture of Yoshi, the owner and founder. When asked why she had created the

place, her response was simple. "Because I like it," she said. "I have to enjoy myself, too."

The restaurant and nightclub features live jazz groups at least six days a week, and many well-known groups appear in the intimate venue, playing only a few yards away from their fans.

While most shows start at 8 p.m., there are also shows at 10 p.m.; Sunday brunch performances are sometimes scheduled as well.

The featured act on July 13 was Hiroshima, a six-person band that has been around for more than 25 years and uses more than 11 instruments in its performances.

Unlike other clubs, Yoshi's is always open to all ages, although there is a one-drink minimum. The place is usually packed, but Levit said it is slower during summer months than around the holidays.

The customers are people of all sorts, ranging from businessmen in suits to families with little children. In the tatami section. Yoshi herself hosted a family of Japanese people overlooking the Bay. After Hiroshima's performance, former Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown could be seen enjoying himself at the sushi bar.

With pommaritas, sushi and jazz, Yoshi's brings something different to the Bay Area.

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Bv Chamila Sumanasekera

he team of Director Jerry Bruckheimer and screenwriters Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio has returned with the second installment of the pirate franchise. "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest."

Following the new Hollywood trend of making lengthy sequels back-to-back for cost cutting and convenience factors, the production team has opted to film the second and third installments together. So, is "Dead Man's Chest" worth all the summer hype?

The original cast, consisting of Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp), Will Turner (Orlando Bloom) and Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley) returns as "Dead Man's Chest" picks up where the first movie left off with the marriage of Turner and Swann.

Just as they are about to wed, their celebration is interrupted by pirate hunter Lord Beckett (Tom Hollander) of the East Indian Trading company. Beckett arrests Turner and Swann on the charges of associating and aiding a known pirate, Sparrow.

Meanwhile, Sparrow is put on alert as Davy Jones (Bill Nighy), the

Sat/Sun/Hol. Starting before 2pm * Lady In The Water (PG - 13) 11:40, 1:00, 2:15, 3:35, 4:50, 6:15, 7:25, 8:50, 10:00 Monster House (PG - 13) CENTURY 16-BAY FAIR MALL 11:35, 12:40, 1:45, 2:50, 4:00, 5:05, 350 Bay fair Mall, San Leandro 6:30, 7:30, 8:45, 9:45 (510)481-0123 You, Me and Dupree (PG - 13) * Lady In The Water (PG - 13) 11:45, 2:20, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50 12:05, 1:25, 2:40, 4:00, 5:15, 6:35, Superman Returns (PG - 13) 7:50. 9:10. 10:25 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10:05 * Monster House (PG) * Cars (G) 1:30, 4:20, 7:10 11:35,12:35,1:50,2:55, 4:05, 5:10, Nacho Libre (PG) 6:20, 7:25, 8:35, 9:40 9:55 Clerks II (R) Garfield: A Tail of Two Kitties (PG) 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15 12:00, 2:00 * An Inconvenient Truth (PG) * My Super Ex-Girlfriend (PG - 13) 4:10, 7:00, 9:20 12:15, 2:45, 5:05, 7:30, 10:00 The Break-up (PG-13) Pirates Of The Caribbean: (Open Captioned) Dead Man's Chest (PG - 13) Tue. & Wed. - 11:50, 7:00 11:05, 12:40, 2:15, 3:50, 5:25, 7:00, FREMONT 8:40, 10:10 NAZ 8 CINEMAS MULTI-CULTURAL Little Man (PG - 13) 12:00, 1:10, 2:25, 3:35, 4:45, 5:55, MOVIE CINEMA 7:05, 8:15, 9:25, 10:35 Fremont Gateway 39160 Paseo Padre ParkWay Fremont * You, Me and Dupree (PG - 13) CA 94538 • (510) 797-2000 11:15, 12:20, 1:45, 2:50, 4:15, 5:20, * KILLER (With Dolby Digital Sound) 6:45, 7:55, 9:15, 10:30 FRI: 5, 8 & 11 Superman Returns (PG - 13) **SAT - SUN** : 1, 4, 8 & 11 12:35, 3:40, 6:55, 10:20 MON - THUR : 4 & 8 The Devil Wears Prada (PG- 13) 11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45 YUN HOTA TO KYA HOTA * Cars (G) (With Dolby Digital Sound) 11:00, 1:40, 4:25, 7:10 FRI: 5, 8 & 11 * Click (PG - 13) **SAT - SUN** : 1, 4, 8 & 11 MON - THUR : 4 & 8 Nacho Libre (PG) 9:55 ✤ GOLMAAL (With Dolby Digital Sound / With English Subtitles) **FRI :** 5, 7, 9 & 11 **SAT - SUN** : 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11 2:20, 7:20 MON - THUR : 4 & 8 ✤ CORPORATE (With Dolby) Digital Sound / With English Subtitles) FRI: 5, 8 & 11 SAT - SUN : 1, 4, 8 & 11 MON - THUR : 4 & 8 * KRRISH (With Dolby Digital Sound / With English Subtitles) **FRI :** 5, 7, 9 & 11 **SAT - SUN** : 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11 MON - THUR : 4 & 8

half dead squid-faced swashbuckling pirate captain, has come to claim Sparrow's soul as payment for granting him a wish to become a pirate captain

In order to avoid Jones' clutches, Sparrow begins a search for the Dead Man's Chest, which contains the heart of Jones. By claiming this heart, Sparrow hopes to control the infamous pirate captain along with his half-man. half-mutated fish-like crew. On a similar quest to free his imprisoned fiancée, Swann, Turner agrees to search for Sparrow and retain his magical compass and the key to The Dead Man's chest for the East Indian Trading Company.

Sitting through the movie, you'll soon realize that you're watching yet another lengthy and excessive Bruckheimer tale. It would have been nice to have a fast-forward button to skip through the first 45 minutes. The real action begins only after Swann escapes and finds herself aboard The Black Pearl with Sparrow.

"Dead Man's Chest" has a fairly good story by default: however Bruckheimer and Verbinski don't utilize the elaborate cues of the swashbuckling tale. Sure, you get

some comical sword fighting and pirates/villains/good-guys chasing one another, but it's all rushed and comes in at the very end. It's almost as if the elements that made the first movie successful and enjoyable have been left behind for something else.

As usual, Depp delivers a stellar performance and the supporting roles are played well by Bloom and Knightlev. You will find yourself entertained and laughing at a few scenes and watching the Kraken tear down some ships. But there is nothing really big here or worthy of the blockbuster treatment.

Bottom line: they could have done a much better job. The two-and-ahalf hour movie could have fit into a time span of two hours comfortably. Also, more concentration should have been placed on the elaborate tale rather than last minute expensive CGI.

It's tough to recommend this movie, and the way the story ends, it doesn't excite your anticipation toward the third installment. "Dead Man's Chest" gets a rating of \$5.25 out of the \$9.50 it cost to see the movie. Go to the matinee or use the \$5.25 to rent the DVD.

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