

# Shakespeare Dazzles Crowds in Bay Area

By Benjamin Potter  
Staff Writer

The timeless, greatly honored craft of poet and playwright William Shakespeare landed in the Bay Area on June 24 by way of The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. The festival will travel throughout the Bay Area with Free Shakespeare in the Park, starting with its weekend performances that end Sunday at the Pleasanton Middle School. The integrity of the festival is to make the words and themes of Shakespeare accessible to everyone, regardless of age, ethnicity, financial status or level of education at low or no cost. A different play written by Shakespeare has been performed each summer since 1983. This year, the festival is reviving "The Tempest," which was also the festival's debut performance. "The Tempest" is considered Shakespeare's last tragic comedy of the Elizabethan romance plays, written in the early 17th century. What distinguishes tragic comedy from Shakespeare's other genres is that

they create a tragic dilemma resolved in the play, but leave the audience with a bit of skepticism. The play focuses on a shipwrecked man named Prospero, who has been on an island for 12 years with his daughter, Miranda, and slave, Caliban. In the twelfth year of being stranded, he causes the shipwreck of his former rivals by creating a tempest to wreak havoc on the ship. The play runs astray and, in the way only Shakespeare can do, is wrapped up with a peculiar forgiveness which makes the play special. While ending with a wedding or a pleasure from happiness, the play asks an in-depth question that can only be talked about by the audience after the play. Cal State East Bay student June Mertens-Barber said the cast did an

excellent job and that the work of art withstood the test of technological age. "Seeing the play as a live performance is definitely awe-inspiring," Mertens-Barber said. "No other type of media would do the play justice because seeing the play done live gives one a better idea of how it was for the audience in Shakespeare's time, and of other people's experiences since then." The setting at the middle school had a rustic feel. The air was a little chilly as the sun went down behind the stage, but the audience was prepared—many chose to lay out a blanket. The Free Shakespeare in the Park will move on to Cupertino on July 15, San Mateo on Aug. 5, Oakland on Aug. 19 and will conclude at the Parade Ground in the Presidio, San Francisco, starting Sept. 2.

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# New SF Museum Gives Fresh View of African Culture Worldwide

By Jessica Blanco  
Staff Writer

The Museum of the African Diaspora, located in downtown San Francisco, is a unique new facility that showcases the global influence of African people through their emigration and the international assimilation of their culture. A new exhibit opening later this month will show the impact of African culture on New Orleans, a city in which the influence of African people is particularly notable. MoAD, which opened late last year as a mandate from the city of San Francisco to include an African-American cultural presence and incorporate locally and nationally known intellectuals and community leaders, has made this the only major museum of its kind. "MoAD is the first museum to really focus on showing that we are a global village, using our African origins as our point of commonality," said Denise Bradley, the museum's executive director. Diaspora refers to the scattering of people far from their ancestral

home, and the ways in which they incorporate their culture in their new homes. MoAD's goal is to foster a greater understanding of human history and promote cross-cultural communication. MoAD promotes, explores and appreciates the contributions people of African descent have made across the globe. The museum is focused on telling the stories of people of African descent and their journeys. The museum has four exciting signature themes: "Origin," "Movement," "Adaptation" and "Transformation." Various traveling exhibitions as well as permanent exhibitions, publications and continuing programs are available for families, children, adults and educators. MoAD features new technology in its exhibition design, including an interactive theater and a global education center. Connecting art, culture and technology, the museum allows visitors—including those who use the Internet—to exchange histories and stories as well as share and debate viewpoints. The museum also allows ordi-

nary people to become artists and showcase their work. "The Louisiana Project," a new exhibit by photographer Carrie May Weems, is scheduled to open July 27. The exhibit is an installation of photography, narratives and video projections that draws inspiration from the city of New Orleans and its rich culture, a mixture of several different heritages that unites them into a single unique culture. Weems, whose work as a photographer centers on history and social critique, frequently addresses questions of race, class and gender in her art. "Hurricane Katrina has produced one of the largest migrations of people of African descent since the civil war," Bradley said. "Their stories and their voices deserve to be documented and preserved. And MoAD, as a 'first-voice' institution, is best suited to capture and contextualize these stories unlike any other museum in the nation." MoAD is located at 685 Mission St. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for seniors. Children 12 and under are admitted free.



Ouch: Tattoo artist Ronnie Flores of the PinPoint Tattoos located on the 2nd Street is giving a tattoo to the customer.

Photo/ Linda Ly

# Downtown Hayward Sports New Ink

By Claire Johnson  
Staff Writer

The last two years have seen the emergence of two new tattoo shops in downtown Hayward that will design original artwork or work with customers on their own designs. The two new shops—Pin Point Tattoo and Russell City Tattoo—join seven licensed tattoo establishments currently operating in Hayward and one located in Castro Valley. Russell City Tattoo—which is located on Mission Boulevard off A Street—is named for the downtown area of Hayward in which it is located. Russell City offers tattoos by six artists and body piercing by two piercers. The shop is owned by tattoo artist Matt Hamlet. Shop Manager Tony Merritt said Russell City is the first tattoo shop that Hamlet has opened and that the shop has been open for two years. Merritt displayed a new tattoo on his upper arm that was just completed by tattoo artist Corey Hensley. The black-outlined design featured a Madonna curled over a skateboard, gazing at the skateboard with a look of love. Hensley has been working at Russell City for four months. He specializes in traditional, new school and black and grey designs. He estimated that Russell City tat-

too artists do about eight or 10 tattoos a day at a cost of \$120 an hour. "We don't like doing a lot of lettering or numbers or things like that," Hensley said. "We try to stay away from that. It's just (that) lettering is an art. It's more of a personal statement and that's not our thing. We're more art-oriented." Rick Colao's Pin Point Tattoo is located less than five blocks away on Second Street. Pin Point does not offer piercing and Colao and his assistant Ronnie Flores are the only two tattoo artists at the shop. "I don't really charge per hour," Colao said. "I usually work with people depending on what their budget is. I don't have the \$50 tattoo walls or the \$100 tattoo walls. I don't have anything on the walls, really. People come in and they tell us what they want. They tell us what they got to work with and we work with them."



Colao may not have any generic tattoos on the walls, but he does have four full photo albums of his original work displayed on the table in the tattoo shop. "We got the building (in) January of last year, (but) we couldn't open the doors 'til May," Colao said. "We had to jump through all the hoops with city planning to get our license." Colao, who owned Pin Point Tattoos in Modesto for five and a half years, previously managed the "Tattoo You" shops formerly located in five East Bay cities. "I love being back in Hayward," Colao said. "I'm building quite a network as far as other artists that I know." While Point Tattoo has just a pair of chairs right now, Colao may have to expand. "It seems like we might get a lot of guest artists coming through here, so we might stretch the stage out a little bit," he said.

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