

A Cool Place to Smoke 'Much Ado' Cast Makes Shakespeare Enjoyable

By Van Truong
Staff Writer

Have you ever been to a hookah lounge? If not, you should give it a try. Hookah bars can be a fun place for college students to hang out, play games, dance and chat with friends.

For people who don't know what it is, a hookah is an oriental pipe designed with a long tube connected to a container through which smoke runs.

My friends and I visited the Hookah Hut in the city of El Cerrito, just off Interstate 80 East toward Vallejo and Sacramento.

The location is the Pacific East Mall, a shopping center that houses numerous businesses, including a Ranch 99 Asian grocery supermarket.

You take the Central Avenue exit, then make a right at the first spotlight, then turn left into a parking lot to look for parking.

The hookah lounge is actually located upstairs in the back of a liquor store on the second floor of the mall. It's a pretty out of the ordinary place for a mini-club to be located and from the outside it doesn't look like much.

But looks can be very deceiving. There are two V.I.P. rooms that are quite big and filled with enough large blocky chairs for about 20 people.

Inside there is a very big flat-screen television you can use to play your own music for listening and dancing.

The interior is dark but light enough for people to see. There is a curtain that separates the two V.I.P. rooms. About 2-3 hookahs are available.

Once you're inside, there is a mini-bar where one staff member is burning loads of coals while flavoring them with masses of exotic and tropical flavors. Those flavors includes Sex on the Beach, peach, Coca Cola, strawberry, watermelon, apple and many others.

When the coal is flavored well and ready to go, other staff members come to pick it up and serve it to the clients who are seated in different rooms.

While puffing on the hookah, a friend of mine, Cynthia Truong, said, "Van, try this—peach is the best flavor I tasted so far!"

The peach was very flavorful. One of my friends, Bobby Huynh, was getting impatient. He kept saying, "Van! Hurry up, pass it down—it's my turn."

The rest of the area is open with chairs and a couple of pool tables where patrons can show off their skills against each other.

Finally, there is small dance floor with a D.J. playing very loud music for people to dance to. The dance floor is very dark and can hold about 25 dancers.

Walking around the lounge, my friends and I saw a couple dancing non-stop. One of my friends, David Tran, giggled and said, "They cannot dance!"

And now to the main event which is the most interesting and exciting part of being at the hookah lounge: the puffing and blowing on delicious flavors of the hookah.

I'm not sure if puffing and

blowing out flavored smoke is bad for you or not. But I am pretty sure that it is not some sort of drug that damages your body.

It just looks cool when you're blowing flavored smoke at each other—and it doesn't affect your body like a cigarette does.

One warning though: if you hold in the flavored smoke for too long, you may get a little light-headed. But the feeling will go away in a couple of seconds.

While you're enjoying the hookah, you can sit back and relax and chat with your friends and the other people around you.

Or you can play pool or dance on the dance floor. You don't always have to consume alcohol to have fun.

Friday and Saturday nights are when the hookah bar is the busiest and hanging out there with your friends is the most fun. The admission is \$15.

The hookah lounge is at 3288 Pierce Street in Richmond. For information call (510) 981-0200.

Much Ado, from page one.

just what she was going to do next.

Her performance was dead-on funny, yet never overblown. Her time on stage was shorter than others in the cast, but she proved that longer isn't necessarily better.

Emmelie Turner (Don John) spoke her character's evil lines speedily. Parts of the play were lost because the dialogue simply couldn't be understood.

Shakespeare's iambic verse is hard enough for some to understand, but at the quick speed Turner delivered it, comprehension was nearly impossible.



Highland Theatre presents:
Brian Turner as Benedick.

Seth Thygesen (Claudio), the only film-making major at CSUEB, played the lovesick suitor well. He

stumbled over his lines towards the end, but the fluffs just added to the believability of his flustered, slightly naive character.

Brian Turner (Benedick), who recently graduated with a degree in theater from CSUEB, played the cocky bachelor as if it was his own life mimicked in theater. His bold asides to the audience showed confidence and comfort at being on stage.

Costumes for the men consisted of military outfits while the women were clad in World War II vintage dresses. Dresses from early in the play made reappearances later on. Masks of Disney characters

Photo/ Richard Olmsted

Antioch Brauhaus Offers Summer Refreshment at Schooner's

By Heather Miguel
Staff Writer

With five house brews and three rotating seasonal specials, the family-owned Schooner's Grille and Brewery in Antioch offers a neighborhood atmosphere and a pint of something you won't forget.

Located in downtown Antioch across the parking lot from Regal

Cinema (dinner, drinks and a movie—the perfect recipe for a date!), Schooner's offers lunch, dinner and after-hours dishes daily, as well as a memorable Sunday brunch.

With an extensive menu that offers almost too many choices—from an appetizer of crab and cheese fondue to the incredible buffalo burger to Schooner's beer bravurst—you might leave the place already wondering about

what to try the next time you come in.

Schooner's offers a variety of light and dark house-made brews. You can try a special seasonal sampler set of 6-8 beers for only \$6. And if you find one you really like, you can get a 22 oz. Schooner's Pint for a measly \$5.

If you want your beer to go, Schooner's offers many options, ranging from a 64 oz. Growlers to 15.5-gallon kegs. Catering is also offered for in-house private parties or for location events.

Since 2001, Schooner's has won awards for its house brews that include gold medals for its American Ale and Oatmeal Stout.

The restaurant and brewhouse

has won a host of other honors, including Antioch Business of the Year and many more.

Schooner's holds special events throughout the year that welcome new and returning visitors.

Weekly events this summer include Monday Car Night, Tuesday Bike Night and Wednesday Kids Eat Free. Thursday's Teacher's Appreciation Day and Friday and Saturday nights offer live music.

For those who may become regular customers, joining the Mug Club might be a good choice. The Mug Club is a \$100, one-year membership that gets you an exclusive 24 oz. mug that you

can fill during any visit for only \$3 (which breaks even at 38 beers, easily done!)

In addition to this boozier bonanza, members receive a special Mug Club T-shirt, a Mug Club party for members held each October, and discounts on kegs and special Schooner's events.

With a staff that will help you regarding selections, a plate of Buffalo wings you will never forget and a casual-elegant atmosphere that makes you feel at home, Schooner's is the place to enjoy a good dish chased by a great beer.

Schooner's Grille & Brewery is located at 4250 Lone Tree Way, Antioch. For information, call (925) 776-1800.

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Tools 4 School

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs is pleased to organize "Tools 4 School" at California State University, East Bay. We are collecting sets of new school supplies and checks on behalf of "Tools 4 School" (an umbrella project of several agencies) who will distribute donated supplies to benefit low-income and at-risk children in Alameda County. We invite you to join us in helping the kids in our community start the new school year with a sense of pride and hope for the future!

How to help:

Donations will be accepted from Monday, July 23rd through Thursday, August 9th at the following drop-off locations:

- Research and Sponsored Programs – Room LI 2300 (across from the Library)
- College of Science – North Science Building, Room N131
- Academic Programs & Graduate Studies – Warren Hall, 8th Floor; Room 859
- Department of Criminal Justice Administration - Meiklejohn Hall, Room MI 4069
- Pioneer Bookstore (items to be donated that are purchased from the bookstore receive a 10% discount)

Tools 4 School is seeking sets of NEW (not used) school supplies, each intended for one child.

Choose one or more options listed below:

- **Elementary School:** backpack with supplies (glue sticks, safety scissors, crayons, markers or colored pencils, lead pencils, ruler, erasers, folders, wide-ruled notebooks or loose-leaf paper, 3XScards, or pencil box with supplies)
- **Middle or High School:** backpack with supplies (pens, No. 2 pencils, markers or colored pencils, college-ruled notebooks or packs of loose-leaf paper, folders, calendar or homework planner, compass or protractor, solar-powered calculator
- Scientific calculator or graphing calculator
- Reference books (i.e. paperback dictionary, single-volume encyclopedia)
- Empty backpack (any style or color)
- Monetary donations will also be accepted and used to buy additional school supplies. All contributions are tax deductible. Checks should be made out to "Lincoln Child Center" and please include "For school supplies" in the memo line. (ORSP staff will mail these donations to the Tools 4 School Program.)

If you have any questions, or need further information, please call Anne Wing @ 885-4212 or Jennifer Cabrejas @ 885-4006.

Thank you so much for your assistance – your kindness will be greatly appreciated!