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Interlochen presents ‘lost’ Shakespeare play and accompanying symposium

Interlochen College of Creative Arts symposium examines the authorship controversy around the play Cardenio.

INTERLOCHEN, Mich.—On April 22, the Interlochen College of Creative Arts will host a daylong symposium inspired by Interlochen Arts Academy’s performance of *Cardenio*.

The symposium, which takes place the day before William Shakespeare’s birthday and death date, focuses on the authorship controversy surrounding the play *Cardenio*. Although historically attributed to the joint authorship of Shakespeare and John Fletcher, *Cardenio* has long been a topic of hot debate between Shakespeare scholars. *Cardenio* is inspired by an anecdote from the novel *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes, who, coincidentally, passed away on the symposium’s date in 1616, one day before Shakespeare.

“I think the questions surrounding *Cardenio*’s authorship tie in with the larger Shakespearean authorship issues,” said David Montee, director of Interlochen Arts Academy’s production of *Cardenio*. “It’s becoming kind of murky in scholarly circles whether or not there is a sole author for any of these Elizabethan/Jacobean plays. Although there’s pretty solid evidence that Shakespeare was involved with writing the play known as *Cardenio*, it’s obviously not by a single author and it raises the subject of how many of the plays we think of today as written by Shakespeare are, in fact, by a single author.”

The centerpiece of the symposium is a panel discussion featuring three Shakespeare scholars, moderated by Montee. The three experts for the event are Dr. Sabrina Feldman, Dr. Richard Joyrich and Scott Harman.

Dr. Sabrina Feldman is the manager of the Planetary Science Instrument Development Office at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. She is also a Shakespearean scholar, and author of the books *The Apocryphal Shakespeare* and *The Shakespearean Glass Slipper*.

Dr. Richard Joyrich is a Nuclear Medicine physician at Harper University Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, who has been a Shakespeare enthusiast for more than 45 years and has “completed the canon” (seen all of the recognized plays of Shakespeare) at least three times. He is a founding member of the Oberon Shakespeare Study Group in southeastern Michigan and is currently serving as vice president of the national Shakespeare Oxford Fellowship. He was a contributor to the Shakespeare Authorship Coalition’s *Exposing an Industry in Denial* campaign and book in 2011.

Scott Harman is a Ph.D. candidate in Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He holds an M.A. in Theatre History from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a B.A. in Theatre and Dance from Alma College. His scholarship focuses primarily on acting theory and pedagogy. He has worked as an educator, actor, director and technician in Philadelphia, Chicago and New York, and has served on the faculties of Alma College and Parkland College. Harman is heading into his 19th summer at Interlochen Arts Camp, is a past Interlochen Arts Academy instructor, and has served as a cast member and dramaturg with the Interlochen Shakespeare Festival. Some of his recent scholarship has focused on Shakespeare pedagogy for younger actors and theatre historiography for pre-professional artists. He recently appeared as John of Gaunt in Madison Shakespeare Company’s production of *Richard II*.

The event also features a pre-performance introduction to the play, with presentations by costume designer Risa Alecci, set designer Elinor Loomis and lighting designer Rachel Diebel. Registration for the event is \$25; tickets to the performance are sold separately and are available through the Interlochen box office. Registrants of the Shakespeare Authorship Symposium have the opportunity to purchase their tickets two days before public sales open.

To register for the symposium, visit college.interlochen.org or call the Interlochen College of Creative Arts at 231.276.7387. Tickets for *Cardenio* can be purchased at tickets.interlochen.org or by calling 231.276.7800 or 800.681.5920.

About Interlochen Center for the Arts

The nonprofit Interlochen Center for the Arts is a recipient of the National Medal of Arts and the only organization in the world that brings together: a 2,500-student summer camp program; a 500-student fine arts boarding high school; opportunities for hundreds of adults to engage in fulfilling artistic and creative programs; two 24-hour listener-supported public radio stations (classical music and news); more than 600 arts presentations annually by students, faculty and world-renowned guest artists; a global alumni base spanning eight decades, including leaders in the arts and all other endeavors. For information, visit Interlochen online at www.interlochen.org.