

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHAKESPEARE COMES TO CRYSTAL LAKE SOUTH

October 12-14 production to feature 5 original songs written by CLS students

CRYSTAL LAKE, Ill., October 12, 2006 – For the first time in more than a decade, Crystal Lake South High School (CLS) students will perform in a major production penned by legendary bard, William Shakespeare. *Twelfth Night*, one of his most beloved comedies, takes the stage at CLS on October 12, 13, and 14, and will feature more than 30 students in the cast and crew.

“We are long overdue to produce the work of the greatest of English playwrights,” says Ben Stoner, director and English teacher. “I had always been reluctant to direct him, not knowing how my students would respond. He can be very intimidating to directors, actors, and audiences, but we have streamlined the text and will provide visual clarity for the benefit of our production and our patrons.”

Stoner cast the twelve major roles in June so that the student/actors would have greater time to work on understanding the play and its meaning. The rest of the cast auditioned and was selected after school began in August. Stoner admits that he has been pleasantly surprised by the anticipation and excitement that has surfaced amongst the cast and crew. “From the outset,” the director says, “students have gravitated to this play and breathed new life into the content.”

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SHAKESPEARE COMES TO CLS 2

Helping to showcase this enthusiasm, he points to the original student-composed music that will accompany the production. CLS seniors Sam Hasting and Sean Wixted have written music that will be performed onstage by a quartet of student/musicians during the play. Working together since June, Hasting and Wixted have penned the music for 5 songs that will appear during the play. Shakespeare provides lyrics in many of his comedies, and *Twelfth Night* features more songs than any other play in his canon. Because no music is included with these lyrics, it is at the discretion of each production to determine how these songs will sound.

“Bringing these lyrics into the present day with new music is an impressive feat for any composer, high school-aged or otherwise,” Stoner states. “Shakespeare points to the importance of music in the play’s opening line ‘If music be the food of love, play on!’ Sam and Sean have ensured that our production will be fresh and unique.”

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Place: Crystal Lake South High School Theatre
1200 South McHenry Ave., Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Dates: October 12, 13 & 14, 2006

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5 students/\$7 adults; student activity passes and golden age senior passes honored at the door

For Advance Tickets Call: (815) 455-3860 ext. 323

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