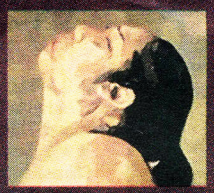
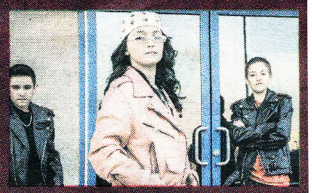
AWE ACCESS

YOUR PASS TO THE WEEK IN ENTERTAINMENT





BARD ROMANCE

WAGNER COLLEGE THEATER EMBRACES 'ROMEO & JULIET' ON THE MAIN STAGE THROUGH SUNDAY

BY ROB BAILEY
bailey@siadvance.com

GRYMES HILL — "O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou, Romeo?"

Uh, everywhere.

Proof: In the last few months, "Romeo & Juliet" fell in love again on Broadway (a mediocre production propped up by above-the-title names Orlando Bloom and Tony-winner Condola Rashad), off-Broadway (with the talented Olsen sister, Elizabeth Olsen) and even on the silver screen (the less said about that Hailee Steinfeld debacle the better).

Lucky for Staten Islanders, we don't have to leave the borough to seen it staged the right way.

Shakespeare's legendary romantic tragedy of two star-crossed lovers opened last week on the nationally acclaimed Wagner College Theatre's Main Stage for a two-week run.

The timeless tale of young passions caught between the feuding Capulet and Montague familie is directed by David McDonald, WCT's head of voice. McDonald said he was especially excited because Wagner's "Romeo" is set in the period of its original conception: Elizabethan England.

"There is great power in the Renaissance world that can particularly inform our understanding of the romance, the violence, the passion, the compassion and the lyrical beauty of this powerful love story," he said.

McDonald makes his Main Stage directing debut, having directed last year's popular "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" in the college's Stage One studio theater.

Playing the title roles are senior performance majors Robert J. Keir and Kelly Hubbell, joined by Steven Copp (Friar John), Phil Della Noce (Friar Lawrence), Tom De Michele (Paris), Doug Hanson (Capulet), Danielle James (Nurse), Tommy Joscelyn (Tybalt), Jesse McCaig (Apothecary), Brendan McCann (Prince), Greg Martins (Montague), Keland Sarno (Mercutio), Bianca Vitale (Lady Capulet) and Sam Weinstein (Lady Montague). Seniors Elizabeth Miller, Brittany Cattaruzza, Julia Karis and Sarah Rosen are members of the ensemble.

The WCT production of "Romeo and Juliet" features Broadway fight choreographer Chris Sordelet. The lighting, set and hair/wig designs are by professor Phill Hickox and students Vicki Neal and Emilia Martin. Junior Jeana Shea is production stage manager.

The enduring masterpiece was previously presented by the Wagner College Theatre on its Main Stage in the 1979-80 season and at Stage One in the 2002-03 season.

PHOTO BY KAREN O'DONNELL

Wagner College Theatre Senior Performance majors Kelly Hubbell and Robert J. Keir play Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers in "Romeo and Juliet."

'ROMEO & JULIET'
The legendary love story by William Shakespeare

When: Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m.

Where: Main Stage at Wagner College, One Campus Rd., Grymes Hill

How much: Ticket to all shows are $16 for ages 12 and under, and $18 for those 13 to 18 years old are $18. For tonight's show, adult tickets are $25, general admission; $23, seniors 62 and over. Tickets for Friday and Saturday evening shows and for all matinees for adults are $28, seniors $26. Wagner College students attend free with current ID.

More information: The WCT box office, located in Main Hall, can be reached at 718-390-3259 or boxoffice@wagner.edu. Box office hours are Monday-Friday, noon- p.m.