



PUPPETS AND HUMANS MIX IN CANTERBURY TALES AT ARTS ON THE LAKE

A newly adapted version of Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" will be presented at Arts on the Lake, 640 Route 52, Lake Carmel, Friday and Saturday, April 19 and 20, at 8 pm and Sunday, April 21, at 3 pm.

Using puppets created by artist Mary Schreiber and a text by writer Jen Gazzo, "The Nun's Priest's Tale", "The Pardoner's Tale" and "The Wife of Bath's Tale" will be enacted by a cast of 24 puppets ranging in size from six inches to seven feet and a cast of 12 actor/operators.

The production is being directed by Ms. Schreiber with help and guidance from eight-time Emmy award winner Ted May, who was a long-time director on "Sesame Street."

Written at the end of the 14th century by Englishman Geoffrey Chaucer, "Canterbury Tales" is a story telling contest among pilgrims traveling together to Canterbury Cathedral to pay homage to St. Thomas à Becket.

"The themes of greed, vanity and chauvinism are simultaneously silly and serious," said Ms. Schreiber, "and are as valid today as they were then."

"Because the tales are bawdy and earthy, this production is not for the preschool set," added Ms. Schreiber, "although older children should enjoy the stories with adult guidance."

Ms. Schreiber is an art teacher at Arts on the Lake of classes for children and teens.

In addition to Ms. Schreiber, Ms. Gazzo and Mr. May, the cast of actors, operators, musicians and voices include Lisa Ameijide, Pallas Athene, Suzanne Bohmer, Kathy Burkovitz, Ed Durkee, Amy Emke, John Grassilli, Gavin Mackie, Francie Anne Riley, Margarita Rubiano and John Schettino.

A previous puppet production at Arts on the Lake was "The Magic of the Nutcracker Tale," conceived by Bart Cook with Maria Calegari. Various puppet sketches have been part of "Open Mouth" performances at the Arts Center.

"The Puppet Group is active at Arts on the Lake," said Executive Director James Shearwood, "Bringing this classic into the 21st century will lead to other productions."

General admission tickets are \$12 with a \$2 discount for members of Arts on the Lake. Tickets can be purchased at www.artsonthelake.org. Telephone reservations may be made at (845) 228-2685.

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