

## **Access to Art, Inc.**

417 E. Pacific Ave.

Cape May Court House, N.J. 08210

**Press Release/for immediate release  
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### **ALL THINGS SHAKESPEARE**

**Access to Art is promoting the Bard in Lecture/Demonstrations,  
Library Classes, and a full performance by the noted Aquila Theatre Company Of NYU Ancient Studies  
Department**

**Erma.** Access to Art invites area residents and visitors to enjoy William Shakespeare's classic comedy "*As You Like It*," performed by the Aquila Theatre Company on November 14th at the Lower Cape May Regional High School's Paul W. Schmidtchen Theatre, at 7:30 p.m. on Rte. 9 in Erma where Shakespeare's famous declamation, by Jacques, on the seven stages of life will be spoken beginning with the familiar lines....All the world's a stage. Aquila performs in over 60-70 cities yearly with rave reviews by major theatre critics. They perform the classics in Europe as well. The company was formed in London, came to the U.S. in the 90's, and is in residence at NYU's Ancient Studies Department.

Access to Art has completed its 12th annual Summer/Fall Sam Maitin Summer Chamber Music Series with a nod to the Renaissance, with one performance of *Romeo & Juliet*, and one performance by Joseph and Kathleen Mayes on Renaissance instruments. The tone has been struck, and now the song will be played out.

Access to Art has garnered regional actors from East Lynne theatre Company, (Alison Murphy and Mark Lang), the Ritz, (Lisa Di Bruno) and South Jersey Regional Theatre (Jim Maher) to prepare an introduction for area school students to the classic comedy, *As You Like It*, introducing them to Shakespeare, and also to the play by excerpting sections and setting the stage for Aquila Theatre Company's full production scheduled for November 14th. They have also included a singing bard who sings period songs. All area schools are invited to attend the lecture/demonstration in Lower Township's 1176 seat Paul W. Schmidtchen Theatre on Rte. 9 in Erma on Oct. 15th at 1 p.m. Tickets for school children are \$5. per person. Reservations must be made in advance with Access to Art, and a count given of students in attendance. Another lecture/demonstration will be held for the Dennis Township Middle schools on Oct. 13th at 9 a.m. which is closed to the general public but open to Dennis Township Middle School. There is some availability for other schools to host the event. Call Access to Art at (609) 465-3963 to inquire or e-mail [barbarabeitel@verizon.net](mailto:barbarabeitel@verizon.net). Checks may be sent to Access to Art, Inc., 417 E. Pacific Ave., Cape May Court House, N.J. 08210.

Aquila Theatre Company was formed in London, came to the U.S. in the 90's, and have a company of English and American actors who perform the classics. Aquila tours extensively throughout North

America and Europe and is the Company in Residence at New York University's Center for Ancient Studies. It has presented regular runs in New York, London and multiple performances in major cities across the United States including Los Angeles, Boston, and Washington, D.C. Additionally the company stages performances at festivals such as "Summer Shakespeare" at the 5,000 seat Mann Center in Philadelphia, the New Victory Theatre in New York City, the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. and the Bermuda Festival. It has gained a well-earned international reputation as one of the foremost producers of touring theatre. Aquila presents high quality and inventive productions of classical drama under the artistic leadership of founder, Peter Meineck, and associate director, Robert Richmond. Since its inception in 1991, the company has won both critical and academic acclaim for its work worldwide as it changes the perceptions of classical drama by freeing the spirit of the original text, and allowing the widest possible audience to enjoy these great plays as live, visceral, and above all, entertaining theatre.

"We wanted a real immersion in Shakespeare, and in the 16th century, so we are not only working with the Cape May Court House library on a class given by Shakespeare teacher Lorinda Desrossiers on Wed. nights through Sept. and October, we are offering lecture/demonstrations on Shakespeare for area schools, and then the full play by Aquila Theatre Company, with modern dress and modernized English. We have local people, like Janet Mc Shane, who graduated from Moore College of Art with a degree in costume design, making costumes for our regional performing artists who will appear in the lecture demonstrations. We have a singer of the Shakespearian sonnets (Bart Singer). We are gathering people to work on a Renaissance Festival scheduled for October next year where we hope to present Renaissance crafts, boat building, glass blowing, leather tanning, pottery, etc., some Shakespeare with regional students of the bard, Renaissance dance and music. We will have jousting, swordplay, and coats of mail. We would also like to have actors portray major figures in the age of Shakespeare, Queen Elizabeth I, John Wolsey, Henry VIII and his six wives, Katherine of Aragon, Ann Boleyn, Katherine Parr, Katherine Howard, etc., Sir Thomas More, Erasmus, Charles V, Clement VII, the Carthusians, Richard Reynolds, John Fisher, , etc. , the martyrs of the Renaissance political world. We would like to work with the schools in developing short Shakespearian vignettes, and with regional acting companies whose actors can present major figures of the period...the explorers like Sir Francis Drake, etc.

Call Access to Art, Inc. if you would like to participate in the Renaissance Festival committee or be a vendor. The phone number is (609) 465-3963. Call for reservations for "As You Like It," at the same number.