

Press Release/for immediate release

Access to Art, Inc.

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Shakespeare's delightful comedy, "As You Like It," where all the world is a stage, is coming to the Paul W. Schmidtchen Theatre, 687 Rte. 9, Erma on Nov. 14th Presented by Access to Art, Inc. featuring the internationally renowned Aquila Theatre Company

"Unmistakable fun..." headline- **Los Angeles Times**. "Aquila Theatre with its brand of economical theatre: have actors, will travel..so simple a device, used for such protean results, is what theatre is all about." **San Jose Mercury News**. They are coming to Cape May County, to LCMR high school's new Paul W. Schmidtchen Theatre on Nov. 14th and you are invited to join them at Access to Art's production at 7:30 p.m.

This is how Shakespeare, with his company, travelled England presenting his plays. And Aquila Theatre, founded by an Englishman, Peter Meineke, knows a good thing when he sees it. He continues the tradition.

The critics love Aquila and their accolades ascend across the country and beyond.

"This half-American, half-British Aquila company production is a master class in acting.- **Backstage**. "Hugely enjoyable and very funny." **The London Times**.

The time has come to bring back the classics, which is how both Peter Meineck, who is the artistic director of The Aquila Theatre Company, founded in London, but residing in the ancient studies department of NYU feels, and Access to Art agrees. Indeed, his mission, is to bring the classics to the greatest number, and that he does with a vengeance. "*As You Like It*," by William Shakespeare, will travel to 65 cities and towns across the nation bringing the hilarious commentaries on love, life in politics, redemption, and, as Shakespeare wittily puts it, you can take his play, "*As You Like It*." On November 14th, at 7:30 p.m., Aquila will bring their company of about seven actors, 6 British, and one American to the stage here to relive the 16th century commentaries of Shakespeare on all things relating to love. There is parody, comedy, melancholy, the horrible vices

and the beautiful virtues of the characters, wrapped up in human flesh, and responding to the lust for power, the lust for lust, the early hormones of youth, and the concepts of love at first sight which blighted the Elizabethans as it amuses us, none too removed from the human condition.

Tickets are \$25. for adults, \$30. for central orchestra, \$10. for students. Seniors can come for \$20. Tickets will be sold from 6 p.m. Nov. 14th at the Paul W. Schmidtchen Theatre, 687 Rt. 9, right before the bridge going into W. Cape May (turn left, building is the first one on the right. Park in the right parking lot, or pass the theatre, and park in the parking lot near the school. Tickets cannot be obtained from the theatre since they have no ticket office. Call (609) 465-3963 for Access to Art, who can reserve your tickets, or buy them online at www.accesstoart.org.

Why does Peter Meineck, Artistic Director, do this? According to his mission statement, "With precision, sensitivity, and unity of ensemble, The Aquila Theatre Company articulates the human essence inherent in classical drama. Combining the techniques of British and American theatre and following a philosophy of theatrical utilitarianism, Aquila believes that the greatest works should be seen by the greatest number." Access to Art, Inc. adds a hearty amen to his mission statement, which, in a way is their own. "We believe in excellence being better than mediocrity. Why shouldn't we see the best? It enriches the spirit, gives joy to our steps, delights the heart. Excellence is universal, it is good, people find something in which they can identify their own human experience. It speaks to the soul. We heard that they were a wonderful ensemble company, that they present Shakespeare with zest and modernity, and make it accessible to the many. Both Karen Weiss, a former board member, who loves the arts, and Lorinda Derossiers, a former English teacher from Lower recommended them to us when they saw them in *Midsummers Night's Dream* at Stockton several years ago. We know that they are discerning people, so we took them up on it. It's what we do, as well. We look for the human essence in drama, dance, music, art because ultimately it defines the civilization, and we are delighted to partner with Aquila." Beitel said. "Shakespeare's words fill our modern vocabulary, and his

eye on human nature was very sharp," she said. "Nothing much has changed, except the vernacular English and our costumes." Beitel said.

"And that is why The Aquila Theatre Company, who opened the L.A. Shakespeare Festival this year, where it received the Critics Choice award, treks resolutely across the globe bringing what it deems the classics to the many. Why not? The classics are classics, because they are good. This year, Aquila catapulted their company from L.A. to Cincinnati, to Boston, to Virginia, to points inbetween, coming to us in a death defying schedule, that the young can tolerate, that puts their physical comedy before the masses...and to great acclaim. We look forward to bringing this to the community. We also look forward to its being the beginning of the Renaissance Festival we will bring to the area next year with lots of art, performances, music, and characters who populated the world of Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, his daughter, and the Italian Medicis. It will be fun." Beitel said.

Aquila is the foremost producer of touring classical theatre in the United States, visiting 60-70 cities per year. It also performs in Europe, and Canada. Everywhere the acclaim is resounding. "The excellent Aquila, an extraordinary inventive and disciplined outfit." New York Times. "The Aquila Theatre Company's productions are simply magical." Backstage. "Aquila's productions are beautifully spoken, dramatically revealing and crystalline in effect." The New Yorker.

Aquila is presented, in part, by a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, and administered by the Cape May County Cultural & Heritage Commission, through the Cape May County Library. It is supported, as well, by Sturdy Savings Bank, by the Delaware River & Bay Authority, and its advertising campaign is supported, in part, by a grant from New Jersey Travel & Tourism, by the Washington Inn, Cape May, La Mer Beachfront Inn, Cape May, and by John's Tire & Auto, in Wildwood. For information on seating, reservations, and group discounts, call Access to Art, at (609) 465-3963.