



417 E. Pacific Ave.
Cape May Court House, N.J. 08210

Press Release/for immediate release

From: Barbara J. Beitel

Telephone: (609) 465-3963

Access to Art Plans October Cape May Renaissance Festival for Area Seeking Vendors of Handmade Crafts

Cape May. Are you a vendor of beautiful handmade things? Access to Art, Inc., a N.J. not for profit, would like to invite you to be a vendor at their October 1st and 2nd Cape May Renaissance Festival. Access to Art, who has presented 18 years of arts programming in the area, including dance, (Martha Graham, Miami City Ballet) classical music, (Philly Orchestra musicians, the Daedalus String Quartet, the Juilliard String Quartet), photography, (WPA "Land of the Free" exhibit with Ben Shahn, etc.), theatre, and art is presenting a Cape May Renaissance Festival in the Cape May area scheduled for October 1st and 2nd this year. Access to Art is looking for actors and vendors of all hand made arts that could be construed as Elizabethan which includes weaving, sheep shearing, glove making, iron making, wood carving, glass blowing, pottery, costume makers, jewelry making, beading, calligraphers, etc. Fee to participate for two days will be \$150. per vendor and the faire will be juried, so send a photo of your wares, and also a description of them to Access to Art, Inc., 417 E. Pacific Ave., Cape May Court House, N.J. 08210. Vendors need to wear Renaissance costumes to amplify the theme. You can come as a pirate, a wench, a noble, a courtier or one of the characters of history, one of Henry's six wives, or a member of his court. Come as Cardinal Wolsey or Thomas More, if you like chancellors. Try on the character of Erasmus of Rotterdam, scholar and priest, a man who wanted reform of the church but from within. Be a member of a Shakespeare troupe of actors, or come as Marlowe or Ben Johnson. Come as a member of Elizabeth's Court, the upper class in England. Elizabeth, Henry's daughter with Ann Boleyn, brought the country into

Protestantism, which her brother, Edward began. Her court consisted of members like Sir Robert Darnley, a courtier, she had known since childhood, Sir Francis Drake, and Sir Walter Raleigh, explorers, considered pirates by the Spanish, as well as counselors, nobles, prelates, etc. There are lots of historical characters." Barbara Beitel, director of Access to Art, said. "The Renaissance is really the beginning of the modern age and could be characterized by a song by Sinatra: "I'll do it My Way."

"Access to Art received a grant from the NJ State Council on the Arts to present Renaissonics, a Renaissance band, who performs in England, France and in the U.S. which is our opening Renaissance event. They are often heard on NPR." said Barbara Beitel, Access to Art, Inc. director. "They are a fabulous group and they will provide an authentic musical note to our Cape May Renaissance Festival," Beitel said. "We are also featuring Elizabethan art songs by Bart Singer, accompanied by a lutist and by guitar." "We will have an art show by Niko Chocheli, who studied the Old Masters, and draws and paints in their style. We will also present Shakespeare's **"As You Like It,"** with regional actors from East Lynne and other area theatres, directed by Mark E. Lang, a NJ equity actor. We have the option of using the "Instant Shakespeare," an improv act from the New York festival which was so popular there that it had a group of followers who attended and participated in the audience improv section of the play being presented. We are gathering actors who have an ability to do improv for that event." Beitel said.

"We are looking for people to participate in our court of Elizabeth I, courtiers, and the Queen, of course." The Age of Elizabeth was also the age of Shakespeare, so we are presenting our "As You Like It," directed by Mark E. Lang of East Lynne theatre with regional and NY actors." Beitel said.

"The Renaissance is such a rich period, a time when we departed firmly from the Middle Ages, in which Europe was a Catholic entity. It began in Italy's City states, and ended with the sack of Rome by Charles V, but it affected all of Europe. The Renaissance comes from the Italian word *rinascita*, which means rebirth. The Italian Renaissance was mainly interested in secular ideas, and the Northern Renaissance, which heralded the invention of the printing press in the mid-fifteenth century by Johannes Gutenberg, resulted in the Northern Renaissance which was characterized by religious interests that led to the Reformation. The bible was being read by the common man. The Renaissance heralded the pursuit of the individual instead of the common good, held as an ideal during the Middle Ages, which the people of the Renaissance referred to as "The Dark Ages". It was a return to Roman and Greek antiquity. It was the beginning of the modern age; politics was rife with people finagling for power and, on every side, there was political chicanery. Merry old England, under Henry VIII, once the Defender of the Faith of the Catholic church, had entered into Protestantism, but not without many losing their heads and being disemboweled and other barbaric rituals of the age, as Henry pursued "The King's Great Matter". Heads were stuck on the tower of London to keep people in a state of fear. Disobey the king, and off with your head! Chancellors proceeded at their own risk: Henry the VIII's chancellor Thomas Wolsey who was the son of a butcher, and rose to the highest office, whose

palaces outshone Henry's own, lost his post by not getting Henry his annulment. In keeping with his master's need to perpetrate his name, he was instrumental in making Henry the head of the church in England, to the detriment to his relations with Rome. He later rued the day he had served his king more than he had served his God. The period of Elizabeth was considered a glorious one for England, and she was a successful regent. Call (609) 465-3963 for further information or to become a vendor or to participate.