

Features

Classic play re-vamped for times **Fiesta Latina**



PHOTO BY JUSTIN MECKES

Kundert-Gibbs' version of "Macbeth" premieres Sept. 28 in the UNCA Carol Belk Theatre.

Rebecca Travers
Staff Writer

A modernized version of Shakespeare's "Macbeth," will be presented in the UNCA Carol Belk Theatre Sept. 28 - Oct. 1 and Oct. 5-8.

The text is still purely Shakespearean, but the storyline has been altered.

Kristin Kundert-Gibbs, a UNCA drama lecturer who is running the show, has an amazing array of reasons constituting why she modernized the play.

Her main objective is to reach the audience.

"I want theater to be immediate. I want to do something that is going to speak to the students at the UNCA campus," she said.

UNCA's version of "Macbeth" breaks down gender barriers.

From past auditioning experience, along with the unequal male-to-female ratio within the drama department, Kundert-Gibbs assumed that the auditions would have a large female turnout.

Considering this, she not only cut the cast, but also gave those auditioning the freedom to try for any role they pleased, regardless of the gender of the character.

Kundert-Gibbs values the freedom that cross-casting offers.

"I really like, when working with

student actors, to give them the opportunity to try new things and push their boundaries," she said.

While beginning the pre-production process, Kundert-Gibbs was highly influenced by two specific areas of research concerning "Macbeth."

She began to tell me about the feminist criticism she had read, which prompted her to view "Macbeth" from a new angle, but before she got too far into her explanation, she exclaimed that men should not be scared away from this production.

"This is not an anti-guy show," she said.

Feminist criticism suggests that the faltered world of "Macbeth"

exists because the being of each character is incomplete.

"Male" characteristics are inherent in everyone, whereas "female" characteristics have been abandoned.

According to Kundert-Gibbs, all the characters in "Macbeth" are embracing the "aggressor, warrior, conqueror, take-territory, build kingdom's side of themselves, while having cut off the nurturing, earth-based 'feminine' side of themselves."

These inner limits create the tension in the play, according to Kundert-Gibbs.

"The reason everything is bad in 'Macbeth,' the reason everything is collapsing is because people have cut themselves off from one side of their humanity," she said.

Due to this incompleteness, the story of "Macbeth" travels in a circle, and ends with the same type of deceit it begins with. No real progress has been made.

Applying this to today's realm, Kundert-Gibbs insists that our society travels on a similar destructive tangent.

We continue to destroy the environment and worship technology. We fall in love with materials, and become crazy with wanting things we do not need.

Our world is askew because in fact we ourselves are out of balance; the same scenario exists in "Macbeth." Kundert-Gibbs sees a strong correlation between the incomplete, greedy characters in "Macbeth" and humans today.

Both have a strong desire to possess it all.

See MACBETH page 5



PHOTO BY PATRICK BRASWELL

Fiesta Latina, sponsored by the Asheville Art Museum, drew a diverse crowd on Sept. 23 in Pack Square.

Kristina Elliott
Staff Writer

The Fiesta Latina kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with a lively celebration of Latin American culture, filling Pack Square with music, dancing, food and educational booths. It was a chance for Hispanic community members to share their heritage with a diverse crowd of people.

The event was sponsored by the Asheville Latin Americans for Advancement society, the Asheville Art Museum and the Asheville Parks & Recreation Department.

The festival brought the Asheville

community together with an atmosphere that reminded me of a family reunion.

It seemed as though everyone knew each other, long-lost friends were reunited, children were chasing each other around on the sidewalks, and parents sat around enjoying music and food.

The event started at 1 p.m. on Saturday and continued until 9 p.m. The day was filled with piñata breaking, story telling, a fashion show, dance lessons and music.

The music was definitely the main attraction of the Fiesta Latina. The two biggest acts were West End

See FIESTA page 5

Western N.C. Writers at Home Series begins



PHOTO BY PATRICK BRASWELL

Susan Weinberg reads an excerpt from her novel-in-progress in the Laurel Forum on Sept. 24.

John Locke
Staff Writer

The UNCA Writers at Home series began on Sept. 24. This series of readings will feature local authors reading their work until.

The series is put on by the Great Smokies Writing Program, a consortium of western N.C. writers," according to program director Tommy Hays.

"There are some very interesting writers in Asheville and the area," said Rick Chess, the creative writing program director. "My idea with the Writers at Home series is to get students at UNCA plugged into this."

The readings occur monthly in the Laurel Forum.

On Sunday, Jan Harrow and Susan Weinberg read excerpts from their unpublished novels.

Susan Weinberg directs the creative writing program at Appalachian State University. She is currently working on a novel, entitled "In Training," from which she read two excerpts on Sunday.

Her novel-in-progress is about 15-year-old, Emma, who wants the normal life made impossible by her mom, Leslie. Leslie is a post-hippie midwife living in Falls Church, Virginia.

While the excerpts Weinberg read were not sequential, she filled the audience in on the intervening events, which included watching the Olympics and Emma's tryst in the boiler room of her school.

The selections she read were taken from the opening of the story and from a scene "about 100 pages"

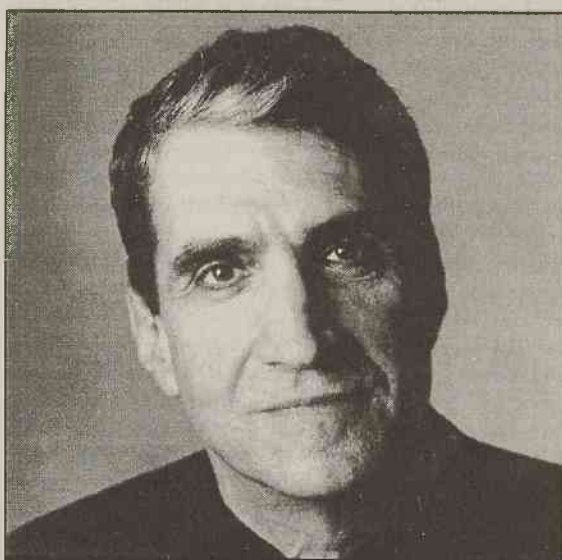
into the work, so I did not really get a sense of where the story was going, or where it had been. However, her whimsical and quick-witted style was evident.

Weinberg is working with Janet Burroway on the next edition of her "Writing Fiction," an acclaimed text on the subject. She has been published in "Voices from Home," the "Indiana Review" and several other fiction journals.

Harrow, who read second, read several excerpts from her unpublished novel, "Mumbletypeg." While Weinberg's writing was whimsical and quick-witted, Harrow mined a more serious vein.

"Mumbletypeg" is about Ida, a young woman who runs away from her repressive Irish-American fam-

See WRITERS page 6



"Pinsky runs on megahertz energy. He speaks with dizzying eloquence."

—Los Angeles Times

Robert Pinsky

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P.B. Parris Visiting Writer

Thursday, Oct. 5

8 p.m. UNCA Lipinsky Auditorium

Author of five books of poetry • Poetry editor of the weekly Internet magazine Slate. • Contributor to the NewsHour • Creator of The Favorite Poem Project

Tickets \$5 (UNCA students one ticket per I.D.)

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For information and to charge tickets by phone, call 828/251-6584.

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