

Whores, History Dominate Area Summer Stage Offerings

KIT FOSS
Staff Writer

In the mood for the comical, profound, or extreme? Check out some of the Triangle's summer theater projects, which provide some great alternatives to TV's summer reruns.

Three actors rule the house in the Open Door Theatre's comic satire "The Complete History of America (Abridged)," which tackles "50,000 years of American events in 90 minutes" in the wake of last year's triumph "The Complete Works of Wm. Shakespeare (Abridged)," also presented by the Open

Door Theatre.

The show will appear on the Weaver Street Market lawn in Carrboro on Friday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3 and early arrival is recommended if you want to secure the greenest grass.

Next week, the show will appear at UNC's Forest Theatre from Thursday through Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Call 933-4650 for more information, or email carolyn@theopendoor.net.

This weekend celebrates the work of Orson Welles at the North Carolina Museum of Art's outdoor film series with "Citizen Kane" on Friday and

"The Third Man" on Saturday. Both films begin at 9 p.m., but theatergoers typically arrive early armed with citronella candles and picnic baskets an hour before the feature. Tickets are \$4. For more info, see <http://ncartmuseum.org/> or call the box office at (919) 839-6262.

The NC Theatre presents the musical "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" at Raleigh Memorial Auditorium today through Sunday. This true story of the Chicken Ranch Boarding House, closed due to the pressures of a Texas televangelist, features spirited music and dancing.

Tickets for "Whorehouse" are \$15-55, and may be purchased from the NCT Box Office at (919) 831-6950. For more information, see www.nctheatre.com.

Raleigh Ensemble Players and NCSU's Thompson Theatre present the comedy "As Bees in Honey Drown" tonight through Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. The show also continues July 26-29 at 8 p.m.

Written by Douglas Carter Beane ("To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar"), "Bees" satirizes our "nation's insatiable appetite for entertainment" in an environment where the sweet success of life and the art world

fraternize with brilliant repartee and con artistry. Director Rod Rich's staging glows with creativity, and the actors' chemistry makes the performance captivating.

Tickets for "Bees" are \$15, and the matinee performance is \$10. For additional information, call 832-9607.

Next weekend, students from the Southeast Raleigh School of the Arts, the University of Louisville, UNC-CH and Dillard Middle School star in the musical production of "Runaways," a drama that handles the theme of children's reasons for running away. "Runaways" opens July 28 at 8 p.m.

and continues through July 30 with performance at both 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday and a matinee at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

There will also be performances August 2, 3, 4, and 5 at 8 p.m. and matinees on August 5 and 6 at 3 p.m. Performances take place at the HLJICA Studio in Raleigh.

Those interested in purchasing tickets, which are \$10, should call the box office at 836-9355 or e-mail HLJICA@aol.com.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

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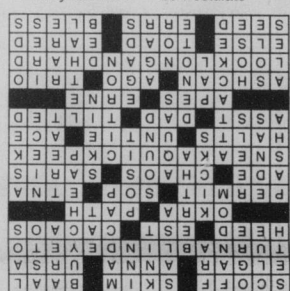
THE Daily Crossword

By Diane C. Baldwin

- ACROSS**
- Treat with derision
 - Glide over
 - Ancient fertility god
 - "Enigma Variations" composer
 - "Karenina"
 - Bear of stars
 - Ignore
 - Pay attention to
 - Founded: abbr.
 - Chocolate trees
 - Gumbo ingredients
 - Trail
 - Afford opportunity
 - Drench
 - Sicilian spouter
 - Fruit beverage
 - Disorder to the max
 - Calcutta wraps
 - Eye surreptitiously
 - Stops
 - Remove restraints
 - Marksmanship
 - Off. underling
 - The old man
 - Asked
 - Mirrors
 - Sea eagle

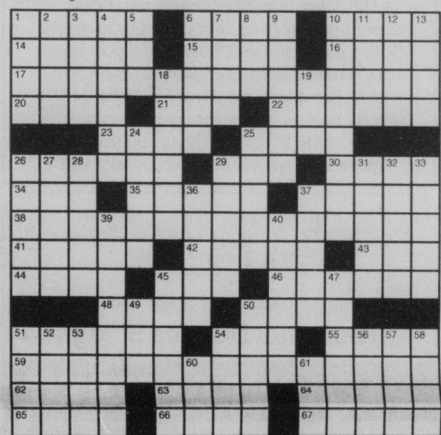
- Container for cinders
- In the past
- Small combo
- Stare openly
- If not
- "The Wind in the Willows" character
- Like some seals
- Potential plant
- Messes up
- Consecrate

- DOWN**
- Genesis character
 - Mystery pointer
 - Fairy-tale monarch



- Turkish official
- Ferber and O'Brien
- Staggers
- In healthy condition
- Mean
- Deadly
- Pardner
- Yikes!
- Pub potables
- Fish choice

- Firefighter's sprayer
- Culture base
- Steak order
- Angry states
- Chances
- Neither's partner?
- Society Ms.



New 'Kid,' Willis Lack Chemistry

In "Disney's The Kid," Bruce Willis's unkeen sense of comedy falls flat with his newest pint-sized co-star.

KAREN WHICHARD
Staff Writer

Image consultant Russ Duritz meets his match when his 8-year-old version, Rusty, comes into his life on the eve of his fortieth birthday in "Disney's The Kid."

Duritz (Bruce Willis of "The Sixth Sense") is a selfish, mean-spirited, career-driven powerhouse without a girlfriend or a dog when Rusty (newcomer Spencer Breslin) drops into his world.

Rusty is an overweight dweeb, much to the dismay of the image-conscious Duritz. Likewise, Duritz's girlfriendless, dogless existence is not a pleasant discovery for Rusty and his childhood dreams.

As the plot unfolds, Duritz is convinced that his younger version has leapt forward thirty years so Duritz can change his childhood for the better.



Bruce Willis stars in the disappointing new movie "Disney's The Kid," with newcomer Spencer Breslin playing his 8-year-old counterpart.

Rusty is taught how to defend himself in the schoolyard by one of Duritz's clients, and Duritz attempts to put him on a diet to improve his pudgy appearance.

Unfortunately for Duritz, Rusty has arrived to teach his older self the lesson, and will not return to his time until Duritz is a changed man.

In typical Disney fashion, Duritz learns the lesson Rusty has unwillingly vaulted into the future to give, and realizes that his personality is in need of an overhaul.

"Disney's The Kid" is another spin on the age-old theme of enjoying life and living into childhood dreams.

"The Kid" also briefly examines Duritz's dismal childhood and the loss of his mother less than a year after his eighth birthday.

While it is a new spin on an old tale, "The Kid" falls hopelessly short. Duritz's childhood is the focal point of the movie, yet all the audience knows about his past is that he does not like his father and claims not to remember his childhood.

The pivotal scene in the movie

hinges on Duritz's mother, yet she is a shadowy figure in the background that the audience does not see.

While there are futile attempts at humor in "The Kid," most of the comedy is flat.

Lily Tomlin ("Tea With Mussolini"), playing Duritz's assistant, Janet, is the best bet the movie has for providing laughs, but Tomlin only appears in a few scenes, leaving "The Kid" somewhat stuffy.

The interaction between Willis and Breslin is disappointing as well. The two lack chemistry, and Willis is not convincing in his role as a man experiencing a life-altering crisis.

"Disney's The Kid" is a disappointing look at the differences that often exist between adult reality and childhood dreams.

While "The Kid" may not be the best choice at the box office, it is amazingly appropriate for all ages, not a small feat when even animated dinosaur movies are fraught with violence.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

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