

Summer promises exciting musical and cultural events

BY ALAN HODGE
Special to The Herald

This summer promises to be one full of exciting musical and cultural events in North Carolina. Performing on stages from the Great Smoky Mountains to the Outer Banks, a wide variety of acts will keep the artistic home fires burning in the Tar Heel state.

One of the most popular and long-running outdoors dramas in the nation, "Unto These Hills," will kick off its 51st season June 13 in Cherokee. The story of the Cherokee Indians and their history, the play begins with the discovery of the Cherokees by Spanish explorer Hernando DeSoto and works its way up to the removal of the Cherokee from their lands in the mid-19th century.

"Unto These Hills" will be performed at 8:30 p.m. nightly except Sundays at the Mountside Theater on Highway 441 N. Tickets are \$16 front row, \$14 adults, and \$6 for kids 6-13 years. Group discounts are available. Call toll free 1-866-554-4557 for more information.

The Blowing Rock Stage Company plans a summer of music and merriment at their theater next door to Blowing Rock Elementary School. Shows slated for the June 14-September 20 season include "Camping With Henry and Tom," "Always...Patsy Cline," "Private Lives," and "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change."

The Blowing Rock Stage Company has been presently their shows since 1985 and performances will take place 8:15 each evening, except Sunday when there will be a 3 p.m. matinee.

Call the box office at 1-800-295-7851 to find out more. Ticket prices are \$18-24 for adults, and \$6-10 for students. Group rates are also available.

June 28-July 29 will see the Appalachian Summer Festival in Boone take place. Called one of the "nation's leading regional arts festivals," the Appalachian Summer Festival will feature music performed by jazz, folk, and classical artists, ballet, dance, drama, and visual arts. Performances will take place at various venues on and around the Appalachian State University campus.

Most events will take place at 8 p.m. Other times and matinees will also be scheduled. Tickets for the Appalachian Summer Festival are \$12-14 for adults, and \$9-14 for students. Children under 12 years may attend for \$2. Call the box office at 1-800-841-ARTS to find out more.

High flying legs will be the order when the American Dance Festival comes to Durham June 7-July 21. Praised as "the world's greatest dance festival," this event will feature performers from groups such as Garth Fagan Dance, John Jasperse Company, Rennie Harris Puremovement, Pilobolus Dance Theatre and more.

American Dance Festival shows will be held at Page Auditorium and Reynolds Industries Theater on Duke University West Campus. Prices range from \$8.50 to \$35. The box office number is 1-919-684-4444, and the administrative office is 1-919-684-6402.

Now in its 69th season, the Charlotte Symphony Summer Pops Concert series will be coming to the lawn at South Park, 4400 Sharon Road, June 8-July 4.

Themes for this year's concerts will include "Symphonic Cinema," "Symphonic Stars and Stripes," and "La Sinfonica Loca." The CSO Pops concerts regularly draw 100,000 folks each year.

Summer Pops show times are 8 p.m. and there is no admission charge. The phone number is 704-972-2000.

In Winston-Salem, the National Black Theatre Festival will be held July 30-August 4 at various venues around town. Directed by Larry Leon Hamlin, this series of shows will include black performers from Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, and the U.S. Over 40,000 people are expected to attend the event which has been dubbed "An International Celebration and Reunion of Spirit."

For more information on the National Black Theater Festival, call 1-336-723-2266. Prices for admission will range from \$10-35. A website is also available at www.NBTF.org.

Classical music buffs will be full of ardor when the Eastern Music Festival comes to Greensboro June 23 through July 28. Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, the Eastern Music Festival is not only a five-week professional concert series, but also a training session for talented young musicians.

Most performances for the Eastern Music Festival will be held at Dana Auditorium on the campus of Guilford College. Times are 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The toll free box office number is 1-877-833-6753. All concerts require a ticket and advance purchase is recommended. Rounding out this tour of



"The Lost Colony", Outdoor drama, Manteo
Photo courtesy of NC Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development

North Carolina summer cultural festivals is the legendary outdoor drama "The Lost Colony." Held Monday through Saturday nights at 8:30 p.m. June 1 through August 24, "The Lost Colony" is staged at Waterside Theater in Manteo. The longest running outdoor drama in the

land, "The Lost Colony" has seen many famous actors and actresses cross its stage, including a youthful Andy Griffith. For more information on "The Lost Colony" call the box office at 1-800-488-5012.

For a great guide to summer cultural events in North

Carolina, call the N.C. Arts Council and ask for a copy of their booklet, "A Guide to North Carolina Music, Dance, and Theater." The Arts Council also has a website at www.ncarts.org with a list of events.

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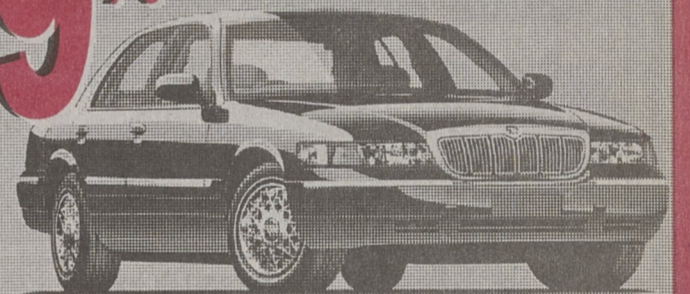
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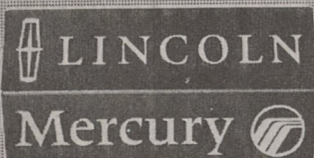
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