RCC presents Shakespearean sonnets

William Shakespeare’s sonnets — “Love’s Not Time’s Fool”— will be presented by Rogue Community College’s Theater Arts Department over two weekends in May.

The performance features “Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day” and 47 other Shakespearean sonnets uniquely staged in dramatic dialogue with music, song and dance by 25 students and community members. The production, featuring some of the world’s most beautiful poetry, has been adapted and directed for the stage by Ron Danko, RCC Humanities and Theater Arts instructor. The performance features former Oregon Shakespeare Festival actor Rob Hirschboek. Gina Scaccia serves as composer and musical director.

Eight performances will be held at RCC’s Warehouse on Bartlett, 114 Bartlett St., on the college’s Riverside Campus in Medford. Shows take place May 14-16 and May 21-23, with performances at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sundays. For reservations call 541-245-7637. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students. Early reservations are recommended.

First published in 1609, the sonnets present a drama with three main characters: Shakespeare, his patron and beloved, and the Dark Lady, “in an eternal triangle, with episodes, conversations and soliloquies,” said Danko. Prior to joining RCC, Danko was founding artistic director of the Shakespeare Festival in Kalispell, Montana, and founder and artistic director of The Western Stage Repertory Theatre in Salinas, California.

Media: For more information contact Ron Danko, RCC Humanities instructor, at 541-245-7585 or 541-899-1575.

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