



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

"HI! MY NAME'S ROMEO!" - Cecelia Byrne stars as Juliet, while Paul Santarelli is her baseball cap-clad Romeo in an impromptu scene from *Romeo and Juliet* which they performed during College Misericordia's "Shakespeare for Kids" program Friday, July 16.

Youngsters get close look at the Bard

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

Back in the old days when people spoke funny English, Shakespeare wrote a play about a guy named Romeo who fell in love with a chick named Juliet.

And he actually kissed her on stage. In front of 38 kids.

E-e-e-eww!

College Misericordia presented a morning of "Shakespeare for Kids" Friday, July 17, for 38 children from the Back Mountain, Mt. Zion Baptist Church's summer camp and Project REMAIN, a program for children living in the Boulevard Townhouses in Wilkes-Barre.

Part of the college's Theatre on the Green presentation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, "Shakespeare for Kids" introduced children between six and 12 years old to the bard and his work through games, crafts and actual experience acting in a real *Romeo and Juliet* scene.

A brief introduction and explanation by King's College English professor Dr. Millie Lawson of the masquerade scene, in which Romeo and his friends crash a party at Juliet's house, was punctuated with giggles and wisecracks when the children found out that

the couple fell in love at first sight and actually kissed on stage.

As the actors performed on the college's outdoor stage, the kids watched raptly, oblivious to the warm, sunny day.

"Those two boys with Romeo acted like my brothers," said Virginia Smith, who is visiting the Back Mountain for the summer.

"This was good. I would like to see the whole play," said Paul Oliver, 9, who recently moved to Dallas from Sayre and has seen *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera*.

Whitney Rozelle of Orange liked Juliet's neat dress.

"It was cool. I saw it last night," said Dallas resident Andrew Volpetti, 11.

"After a while you get used to the way that they're speaking, and it doesn't seem so different," said Danny Davis, 10, of Dallas. "It's like someone having a different accent. You can always watch what they're doing and understand what's going on."

Later, as the children formed small groups to make their own masks and rehearse another scene from the play, they good-naturedly argued which role was better.

"I want to be one of Romeo's drunk friends," said Paul Santarelli. Later he jumped at a chance

to be Romeo - "as long as I don't have to kiss anyone."

Whitney Rozelle had wanted to be Juliet, but settled for a role as one of Juliet's friends when another little girl got the lead part.

Other kids appeared as friends, Romeo's and Juliet's parents and trees.

Questions like "Hey, what's my line?" and "Was Romeo a real boy?" echoed around the stage as kids practiced their lines, the girls trying to keep their conical Elizabethan hats with trailing scarves from falling across their eyes in the breeze.

Finally it was time to go on stage and rehearse the Big Scene, in which Romeo and Juliet walk in the woods and their parents think that they're lost.

"Hi! My name's Romeo. What's yours?" hammed Paul Santarelli, prancing across the stage, black Bugle Boys baseball cap pulled over his face.

"Juliet," answered Cecelia Byrne.

"Want to go climb trees?" Maybe Will Shakespeare would have phrased it this way if he had been born several centuries later.

Certainly he would have enjoyed the budding thespians trying out serious theater for their first time.

Murphy begins Misericordia internship

The new Cooperative Education Program at College Misericordia recently placed an intern at the Greater Wilkes-Barre Partnership Office.

Lisa Murphy, a senior English major from Dallas is gaining work experience in the Public Relations Office of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Partnership.

"This program is beneficial to employers as well as students," said Judy Ellis, director of cooperative education at Misericordia. "Employers receive outstanding service while the students earn valuable experience."

The Co-Op Program at Misericordia began in October 1992 as part of the United States Department of Education Title VIII Cooperative Education Grant and has placed more than 30 students in paid internships throughout northeastern Pennsylvania.

For more information on the Cooperative Education Program at Misericordia, contact Judy Ellis at 674-6472.



BEGINS INTERNSHIP - College Misericordia recently placed an intern through its cooperative education program. Seen from left are: Judy Ellis, Misericordia director of cooperative education; Donna Sedor, Greater Wilkes-Barre Partnership and Lisa Murphy, intern.

Schoenig attends scholars' institute

Gregory Schoenig, son of Ms. Barbara Schoenig of Dallas, attended Lebanon Valley College's Daniel W. Fox Youth Scholars Institute June 20-25. Schoenig, who is a junior at Dallas Senior High School, participated in the actuarial science program.

Named to Marywood Dean's List

Wendy A. Vaughn, Dallas, has been named to the dean's list at Marywood College for the spring semester.



TOP SCHOLAR - Awarding Heather Wright her Remington Scholarship are, from left: Judge Hugh Mundy, Board of Directors, Commission on Economic Opportunity; Gene Brady, Executive Director, Commission on Economic Opportunity; Mrs. Dorothy Remington; Heather Wright, Joy Purcell, Heather's mother; and Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan, CEO Board President.

Dallas grad earns Remington scholarship

The Commission on Economic Opportunity presented Scholarship Awards to local students who have achieved academic distinction during their high school years. Heather Wright, a 1993 graduate of Dallas High School, was among the recipients. The Awards, funded by the Northeastern Resources Development Corpora-

tion, were established by the Commission as a memorial tribute to F. William Remington, a former Board Member and President of the Organization.

The Commission on Economic Opportunity recently held an Awards Dinner to honor the Scholarship recipients. Since the inception of the Scholarship in 1984,

there have been 22 Remington Scholars chosen from candidates nominated by each of the Luzerne County High Schools.

Heather Wright is a graduate of Dallas High School. She is planning to attend Penn State University, Hazleton Center and major in Business.

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