

LIFE

Wednesday, June 15, 2016



SETH FREEMAN

Contemporary American Theater Festival actors Jason Babinsky, Margaret Ivey and Damian Thompson read from Chisa Hutchinson's play, "The Wedding Gift."

Setting the stage

Contemporary American Theater Festival artists converge on Shepherdstown

By CHRISTINE SNYDER
Christine@spiritofjefferson.com

SHEPHERDSTOWN — You need to spend time at the Contemporary American Theater Festival at Shepherd University this summer.

That's the advice of no less an authority than the arts writers at the New York Times, who included event on its list of "50 Essential Summer Festivals," right up there with Chicago's Lollapalooza, the Newport Jazz Festival and the Lincoln Center Festival in Manhattan.

Preparation for the 26th-annual festival got underway earlier this month, with a kickoff picnic for this year's 130-member company on the grounds just outside the Frank Center and then the start of four weeks of rehearsals.

Starting July 8, the four-week season will feature five new plays — "pen/man/ship" by Christina Anderson; "Not Medea" by Allison Gregory; "The Wedding Gift" by Chisa Hutchinson; "20th Century Blues" by Susan Miller; and "The Second Girl" by Ronan Noone.

This year's acting troupe includes Betsy Aidem, Jason Babinsky, Rachael



Ed Herendeen

Balcanoff, Ben Chase, Brian D. Coats, Franchelle Stewart Dom, Kathryn Grody, Margaret Ivey, Ted Koch, Nafeesa Monroe, Alexandra Neil, Edward O'Brien, Joey Parsons, Carolyn Michelle Smith, Mary Suib, Damian Thompson, Cathryn Wake and Jessica Wortham.

Five students from Virginia Commonwealth University — Mikayla Bartholomew, Tyler John Fauntleroy, Ariane Ireland, Ciara Monique McMillian, and Vincent



WANT TO GO? What: Contemporary American Theater Festival's 26th season
When: July 8 to 31 **Where:** On the campus of Shepherd University
To reserve tickets or learn more: Go to catf.org or call 800-999-CATF

Ramirez — also are in Shepherdstown, to serve in ensemble pieces and as understudies. Shepherd actor Tre' Henley also will be the CATF acting team.

Besides festival founder Ed Herendeen — who is directing "The Second Girl" and "20th Century Blues" — other directors for the 2016 season will include Courtney Sale ("Not Medea"), May Adrales ("The

Wedding Gift") and Lucie Tiberghien ("pen/man/ship").

Theater lovers can reserve spots now to see the plays and make plans to enjoy festival extras such as free stage readings, post-performance discussions, the "CATF in Context" lecture series offered free through funding from the West Virginia Humanities Council, workshops, classes,

art exhibitions, films and more.

For those who don't want to wait for the festival's official start (or who want a night of theater on a budget), CATF offers its Pay-What-You-Can Preview series July 3 to 7. Seats for these dress rehearsals are available first-come, first-served.

Details are available at catf.org or by calling 800-999-CATF.



Getting the lay of the land

Saturday's free Farm Day gives visitors insights into farming life

By ZACH CUMBERLAND
sports@spiritofjefferson.com

CHARLES TOWN — Jane Tabb says she got the idea for Jefferson County Farm Day years ago amid tensions over land development in an area where farming once was the major occupation.

LEFT: Kearneysville's Eversweet Apiaries is one of four stops on this weekend's free, self-guided Jefferson County Farm Day tour.

"I thought it would be a good idea that we all learn how to be good neighbors to one another and appreciate our farm land," said Tabb, a farmer herself and a member of the Jefferson County Commission. "That's why I started it."

The 15th annual event happens from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Visitors can take free, self-guided tours of four farms — Taylor's Ranch, Munchin Hill Farm and Eversweet Apiaries, all in

WANT TO GO? What: 15th-annual Jefferson County Farm Day with self-guided tours of Grams Racing Stable in Ranson and three sites in Kearneysville — Taylor's Ranch, Munchin Hill Farm and Eversweet Apiaries **When:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday **How much:** Free

◆ See FARM DAY Page B12



1st Annual WV Fest June 18 • Down Town Charles Town

The Charles Town Farmers Market will be moving to North George Street for one day only.

Hours 8am to 4pm • Live music on two stages • Wine Garden Bros & Bras 5K race • History Walks • And much more

Come celebrate our community with us!

Support Local Growers, Artisans and Producers