

NEWS
SEARCH

search

Options

A PACKET
PUBLICATIONS
WEBSITE



TIMEOFF

www.packetonline.com



Cloudy 63°

5 Day Forecast

News Business Classifieds NJWebDirectory.com Marketplace Entertainment Our Towns Our Paper

Thursday 11 May, 2006 Home > Entertainment > Entertainment > Theater

Theater

- ▼ **Entertainment**
 - Entertainment News
 - Theater
 - Movies
 - Calendar
 - TV Listings
 - TimeOFF Print Ads
 - TimeOFF Staff
 - Archive 2004-2000
 - Archive 1998-2000

- ▶ **Restaurant Reviews**
- ▶ **Food & Drink**
- ▶ **Personals**
- ▶ **Fun & Games**
- ▶ **Pet of the Week**
- ▶ **Special Sections**
- ▶ **Classified Ads**
- ▶ **Print Ads**
- ▶ **About Us**
- ▶ **Feedback**
- ▶ **Visit Princeton**
- ▶ **Useful Links**
- ▶ **Advertising Info**
- ▶ **SEARCH**
- ▶ **LOG IN!**

'Antony and Cleopatra'

By: Stuart Duncan, TimeOFF

04/30/2003

[Email to a friend](#) [Post a Comment](#) [Printer-friendly](#)

Actors' NET of Bucks County offers another rewarding, comprehensive productions for its knowing audiences.

Shakespeare must have loved tragedies — he wrote them twice as long as his comedies and filled them with dozens of characters, important and not so.

Actors' NET of Bucks County has developed a knack for taking huge projects, fashioning them to fit its postage-stamp space at the Heritage Center in Morrisville, Pa., snipping away excess material, doubling and sometimes tripling cameo roles and offering rewarding, comprehensive productions to its knowing audiences.

The latest triumph is Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*, seldom staged and unwieldy, but passionate and fiery. It makes a delicious companion piece to last month's Shaw comedy, *Caesar and Cleopatra*, and an appetizer to next month's *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, the third in what Actors' NET is calling "The Toga Trilogy." It is no simple task for director Cheryl Doyle — more than 30 roles, four hours (here chopped to three and a half), and the usual complement of angst and trauma. It also includes some of Shakespeare's most elegant language and complicated characters.

Director Doyle has accomplished a few minor miracles: For one thing, she has managed to blend 40 scenes (yes, 40 separate scenes) so they move smartly and easily. Three officers in Antony's army — Philo, Ventidius and Canidius, in the original script from the first folio — are completely interchangeable. Ms. Doyle simply has combined them into a single character.

But ultimately the production rests with George Hartpence and Carol Thompson as the title characters. We have seen the two paired before — principally in *Camelot*, *Becket* and *My Fair Lady*. Both have a superior sense of language and impeccable timing. More importantly for this particular production, however, they have a depth of passion that sets the tone of the evening from the first scene. Shakespeare's tale demands we believe that Antony, despite his mastery of war maneuvers and personal bravery, became so much putty when Cleopatra turned on her considerable charms. Hartpence and Thompson, engaged to be married on a June Sunday this summer, leave no doubt as to the passion of the relationship.

But there is much more in this production. Among the many high spots, veteran actor David Swartz is a superb Enobarbus, and his rendering of the famous speech: "The barge she sat in, like a burnish'd throne, burn'd on the water; the poop was beaten gold, purple the sails..." is absolutely breathtaking. Mort Paterson is an imposing Lepidus;



Carol Thompson (left) and George Hartpence star in *Antony and Cleopatra* at Actors' NET of Bucks County.

THE BEACON
Subscribe Today!

WHERE TO GET
OUR NEWSPAPERS

CLASSIFIED ADS
SUBMIT ONLINE

CANCER SOCIETY

Capital Out Ex

hor
The Pa Sat. 5/2 ADMISS

PI CAS Fan

NA FRI

W HOTEL

HAI CONFEREN PRINCETON



Bernard DiCasimirro stands out as Proculeius. Theresa Forsyth Swartz, black wig and all, finds just the right mixture of slave and salve as Cleopatra's attendant, Charmian. Nobody is killed in this tragedy. Oh, the stage is littered by the closing scenes, but this time, everyone has killed themselves.

Antony and Cleopatra continues at Actors' NET of Bucks County, the Heritage Center, 635 N. Delmorr Ave., Morrisville, Pa., through May 11. Performances: Fri.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 6 p.m. For information, call (215) 428-0217 (box office) or (215) 295-3694 (home office). On the Web: www.actorsnetbucks.org

©PACKETONLINE News Classifieds Entertainment Business - Princeton and Central New Jersey 2006

Reader Comments

Submit your own comment!

Added: Friday May 02, 2003 at 02:12 PM EST

In an otherwise excellent review, Mr. Duncan is remiss in failing to note the redoubtable Marco Newton, the linchpin of this exceptional ensemble, brings new meaning to the term "glowing like a eunuch" ...

Charley Partanna

Email to a friend Post a Comment Printer-friendly Top





Copyright © 1995 - 2006 Townnews.com All Rights Reserved.

[News](#) [Business](#) [Classifieds](#) [NJWebDirectory.com](#) [Marketplace](#) [Entertainment](#) [Our Towns](#) [Our Papers](#)