

All the world is a stage

Annual Shakespeare Festival starts up third year of celebrating playwright's life



When considering whether or not to attend the

and works with the annual MSC Literary Arts Shakespeare Festival. "I think the title of this year's Festival, 'Much Ado About Shakespeare,' really captures a lot," said Vicky Sherrouse, MSC Literary Arts Programming executive and a sophomore information systems major. "For people who are not involved with the festival, it must seem strange to see so many people getting so caught up in an author from hundreds of years ago. In reality, it is about more than Shakespeare himself — it is about his legacy, and it is about fans of literature from every academic discipline coming together to enjoy some of the most universal tales ever told."

The MSC Literary Arts Committee (LAC) has been responsible for the festival right from the beginning. An evaluation was conducted during the 1997-1998 school year to find out what A&M students wanted on campus in the form of literary arts. The results prompted LAC to hold the first annual Shakespeare Festival to increase student consciousness of the literary arts in 1998.

"Our mission is to promote awareness of the literary arts on the A&M campus and provide the students and community with educational and entertaining programs focused in the literary arts," said Suzanne Spencer, MSC Literary Arts chairperson and a senior English major. "The Shakespeare Festival of-

fers a broad range of themes that would interest anybody. We are offering not only education about Shakespeare but also entertainment," said Terrell Rabb, LAC Shakespeare marketing executive and a sophomore political science major.

While LAC is primarily in charge of the festival, there is also another group that has been in on the action from the beginning — The MSC Film Society.

"The MSC Film Society has been involved with Shakespeare Festival for at least the past three or four years. Literary Arts wanted to incorporate some Shakespeare-interpreted films into the festival and asked us to help with that aspect of the program," said Jason Puckett, co-vice chair and director of audience education for MSC Film Society and a junior environmental design major.

The Film Society has contributed the Audience Education Lecture Series to the festival. "This program is aimed at showing the student body that motion pictures are made for more than just entertainment. We try to find a film that deals with a certain topic and find a speaker to discuss the relation of the topic and the film," Puckett said.

Companies such as Norton Publishing and Barnes and Noble have also played a role in making the Shakespeare Festival a success.

"They [Norton Publishing] provide us with books and other goodies that we can give as door

prizes and as gifts for our guests. Barnes and Noble has also been of great assistance with our Sonnet Contest and Open Mic," said Sherrouse.

Prizes for the Sonnet Contest were awarded Sunday at 2 pm at the Barnes and Noble on Texas Avenue.

"Norton has been great by supplying us with books, T-shirts and tote bags that we can give away as door prizes at each event. The books are all Shakespeare oriented. Without the Norton contribution, we could not give away any prizes," said Spencer.

Rabb said that Barnes and Noble helped out by donating prizes for the Sonnet Contest.

"It has effected us all positively. I think it has given all involved some experience in planning a major event, coordinating with different groups to have everything prepared as well as managing everything so it is finished on time. The best part of working on Shakespeare Festival is seeing all the planning and hard work everyone put in come together," Rabb said.

"The main thing the students have enjoyed is being there for the finished product. Not everyone gets the chance to take a Shakespeare

class, or discuss Shakespeare with any member of the A&M faculty, and this program has allowed for them to do so," Puckett said.

The students have also put effort into making this year's Shakespeare Festival different and better than the last to try and encourage new and old festivalgoers to come. Rabb said one change this year was that the festival is held in February. Rabb said he thinks this will give students a better chance to attend the events as opposed to last year's festival which was held around the time students were preparing for finals.

Something new that has been added to this year's festival is the Masquerade Ball.

"I think this will be the best festival ever. Every year we learn where we went wrong, and now I feel that we're really getting to understand what the University and the community as a whole is looking for in a Shakespeare Festival," Sherrouse said.

"This festival will be one of the best attended in our history and for those who attend they will be exposed to Shakespeare in a new and interesting way," Rabb said.

"Everyone enjoys watching people act, and Shakespeare's plays are the hardest to act out, that in itself is always fun to see. Oh, and did I mention this stuff is free? Who doesn't like to watch free shows? There's history, poetry, acting, films and tours, what's not to enjoy?" Puckett said.



Story by Kelly Preiser • Photo by Chad Adams • Graphics by Emily Harrell

Awards, presentation by Rodriguez wrap up Texas film festival

BY MATT McCORMICK
The Battalion

The seventh annual Texas Film Festival drew acclaimed director Robert Rodriguez (*El Mariachi*) and films featured at the Sundance Film Festival, but it did not draw the size of audience the festival's organizers expected. The chairs of the MSC Film Society said they hoped that by bringing in a recognizable director like Rodriguez, Monday is a holiday and the festival's interest would be promoted in the festival and attendance would reflect that. "We are hoping to fill up a large portion of the [Rudder] Auditorium," said Logan Youree, vice-chair of Film Society and a junior speech communication major. "Attendance was not as high as we expected, but Rodriguez was amazing," said Ryan Whitworth, chair of Film Society and a senior biomedical science major. He said attendance for other events

was also disappointing, particularly for the workshops.

"I think advertising for individual events could have been a little better. People knew about festival, but they didn't really know about many of the details. In fact, next year we are going to have seminars that deal with advertising," said Casey Starr, festival director and a senior industrial distribution major.

However, the lower-than-expected attendance has not discouraged the Film Society members, Whitworth said.

"We will keep putting this festival on until the students notice how great it is," he said.

The festival received a great response from the students in attendance.

"Overall, I thought the festival was a great success and I have to say it was due to the great efforts we got from the staff and people who helped to put it on, as well as the filmmakers themselves," Starr said.

This year's festival showed a variety of independent films. Several of the directors have attended other festivals, including ones held in New York and Los Angeles, and they all commented about the high quality of the festival.

"We've made several festivals in the past few months and this is by far the most professionally run festival we have attended. The people of the Film Society have just done a great job and are so polite," said Scott Barlow, director of *The Last Late Night*.

Workshops at the festival were open to the public and offered participants the chance to interact with and ask questions of directors and actors in an intimate setting.

Bob's Video showed at the festival on Friday night and, before the film started, director Dino Andrade had a few words to say to the audience. In an emotional scene, he discussed the suicide of his wife, Mary Kay Bergman. One of the great voice over

talents in Hollywood who voiced the female characters on TV's "South Park" and several of Disney's feature-length cartoons, Bergman had an undiagnosed mental illness. She has her only on screen performance in *Bob's Video*, which Andrade dedicated to his wife.

The film festival wrapped up Saturday night with an awards ceremony and a screening of *El Mariachi* with a special guest appearance by director Robert Rodriguez.

Honored at this year's festival were the films: *Now and Then*, Best Documentary; *Standing on Fishes*, Best Feature Film; *Culture*, Best Short Film and the acclaimed short *George Lucas in Love* won the Audience Award.



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

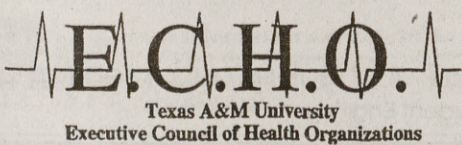
Director Robert Rodriguez answers questions on the making of *El Mariachi* and low budget filmmaking Saturday night in Rudder Auditorium.

Health Professions Symposium

Free! Meet over 60 representatives from Medical, Dental, Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy, Nursing, and Other Health Professions Programs from around the world!

MSC Flagroom

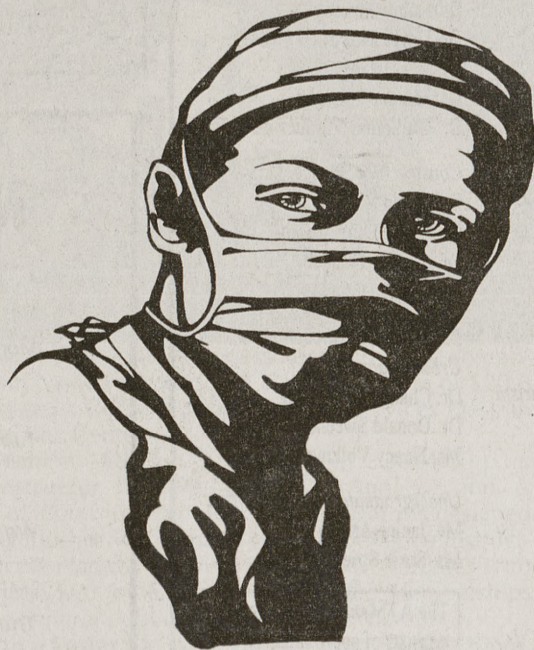
February 22
10:30-2:30



E.C.H.O. Members:

Alpha Epsilon Delta
Biomedical Science Assoc.
Microbiology Society
PreMedical Society
Multicultural Assoc. Of PreHealth Aggies

Beta Beta Beta
Genetics Society
PreDental Society
American Medical Student Assoc.
Aggies



PAPA JOHN'S

BEAT THE CLOCK

Mondays 6-8pm

The Time You Call Is The Price You Pay!!!

College Station 764-7272	TAMU/ Northgate 846-3600 Open till 2 a.m. Thursday 3 a.m. Friday & Saturday	Bryan 268-7272
-----------------------------	---	-------------------

Buck's Pizza

PIZZA · STROMBOLI · HOAGIES

Medium One Topping Pizza

\$3.50

*Order 3 for free delivery

693-2BUCK