

ashland oregon

All the World's a Stage

by Janna Marlies Santoro

The Oregon Shakespeare Festival is probably the single most contributing reason that Ashland is what it is: Bard Country. According to the 2005 State and Local Economic Impact Report, in one year alone, the festival brought an estimated 56,000 visitors to the city, generating approximately \$47 million in local revenue. So what's the draw? Shakespeare, for one. Outstanding productions are another. So get thee to Ashland before the end of October and you may have a chance of catching a performance of *As You Like It*, *The Tempest*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Taming of the Shrew*, Tom Stoppard's *On the Razzle* and/or Moliere's *Tartuffe*. Can't make it this year? Fear not! The festival's promising 2008 season has planned stagings of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Coriolanus*, *Othello* and *The Comedy of Errors*. Plays of the non-Shakespeare variety will include Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge* and Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*.

To drive or not to drive?

Ashland may be considered a far away place simply because it's in Oregon, but the drive is not all that bad (take it from someone who opted to drive for her inaugural trek and won't consider anything less from now on). Here's why: excluding California's coastal routes, the drive north on Interstate 5 is quite possibly the most gorgeous in the state – past Sacramento's notorious flatlands, that is. Continue north, and what light through yonder window breaks? It is the east and Mt. Shasta is the sun. Cheesy? Maybe. But the sight is



The Elizabethan Stage

equally as beautiful as the line that stole the fair Juliet's star-crossed heart. Oh, and it's really not that long of a drive – just four hours and 36 minutes from Sacramento, according to Google maps.

Wherefore art thou, pillow?

Rest easy. There are plenty of pillow options in this fair town. Spend a romantic weekend at one of Ashland's intimate and quaint B&Bs in the heart of downtown, within waking distance from the Festival theaters. A few local favorites are **Blue Moon** and the **Pelton House**. For a longer stay, say a week-long vacation, check out the city's historic landmark, the **Ashland Springs Hotel**, or **The Winchester Inn**. On a budget? **The Manor Motel**, just a few blocks removed from Ashland's downtown (and still within walking distance), offers cozy rooms for under \$100 per night.

A meal by any other name

Any true cultural experience is not complete without fine and/or funky dining options. Thou are lucky, oh theater-goer, for thee shall

find many in yonder Ashland. There's **Zoe's** for connoisseurs of natural ice cream and the casual sandwich. (Bonus: they're open late, which is perfect for post-show snacking.) For down-home cooking, breakfast all day, and fresh bakery goodies like Marionberry Pie, there's **Munchies**; **Beasy's on the Creek** serves seafood and steak; and **Amuse** offers outdoor seating and homemade, artisan foods.

When the play's not the thing

If the Bard bores you (or your faithful traveling companion), no problem. There is plenty else to see, do, play, taste (insert preferred verb here). How about a production by the **Oregon Cabaret Theatre**? OK, so theater's not your thing, either? Then check out **Britt Festivals** for a slew of other entertainment options. And then there's always an abundance of art galleries, music and film fests, wineries, shopping, outdoor activities, and history in and around Ashland to keep even the most avid Shakespeare/theater critic occupied so that *you* can enjoy the OSF for days on end. Just say you'll meet on the green after the show. •

AWAY TO ASHLAND

Amuse

15 N. First Street
541-482-8818, amuserestaurant.com

Ashland Chamber of Commerce

110 E. Main Street
541-482-3486, ashlandchamber.com

Ashland Independent Film Festival

541-488-3823, ashlandfilm.org

Ashland Gallery Association

(Free gallery guide available)
877-752-6278, ashlandgalleries.com

Ashland Springs Hotel

212 E. Main Street
888-795-4545, ashlandsspringshotel.com

Ashland Wine Tours

541-552-9463, ashlandwinetours.com

Beasy's on the Creek

51 Water Street, Top Floor
541-488-1523, beasysrestaurant.com

Blue Moon B&B

312 Helman Street
800-460-5453, bluemoonbandb.com

Britt Festivals

Jacksonville, Oregon
800-882-7488, brittfest.org

Manor Motel

476 N. Main Street
866-261-9733, manormotel.net

Munchies Restaurant & Bakery

59 N. Main Street
541-488-2967,
ashland-oregon-munchies.com

Oregon Bach Festival

Eugene, Oregon
800-457-1486, oregonbachfestival.com

Oregon Cabaret Theater

1st and Hargadine
541-488-2902, oregoncabaret.com

Oregon Shakespeare Festival

15 S. Pioneer Street
541-482-0442, osfashland.org

Pelton House

228 B Street
866-488-7003, peltonhouse.com

Winchester Inn

35 South Second Street
541-488-1113, winchesterinn.com

Zoe's Café & All Natural Ice Cream

199 E. Main Street
541-482-4794

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