

Pericles performance to travel the world

What: Shakespeare's *Pericles*, presented by the Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company

Where: Creative 360 (formerly Creative Spirit Center) at 1517 Bayliss in Midland.

When: 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20

Cost: \$12 for Creative 360 members and \$15 for non-members; includes an afterglow with the cast and a Wassail bowl

For more information: Call (989) 837-1885 or visit www.bcreative360.org

Midland -- A play dealing with a world-traveling hero, a lost princess, an evil queen and a family separated for 16 years is headed for Creative 360, formerly Creative Spirit Center, on Sunday, Dec. 20.

It's Shakespeare's seldom-performed *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*, presented at 2 p.m. by the Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company of Grand Haven -- with Saginaw Township native Scott Lange in the title role.

"Our artistic board, which chooses the plays we do, loved the fairy tale feeling of this one," says Katherine Mayberry, the executive director of the professional touring theater company and director of *Pericles*.

"It has over-the-top villains, a love story with a brave knight and a princess, a kidnapping by pirates, a little bit of magic and a hard-won reunion of parents and child. It's like a really fun bedtime story."

Adds Lange, "This play doesn't get enough credit. It's about a hero's journey. *Pericles* fights through many trials and tribulations in order to reach the prize at the end of his travels. It reminds me of the *Odyssey* or even *The Lord of the Rings*.

“I can't think of a person today like Pericles, but his story is similar to that of Job in the Bible. All his fortunes are taken away, unfortunate things continuously happen to him, but he never curses God, or asks 'why me.' He strives ahead undeterred, never giving up and always thinking of others first.”

Lange, a graduate of Heritage High School, says he finds Pericles a difficult character to play.

“I'm not quite sure I can put my finger on why. One challenge is that he's sort of the straight man to the rest of the play's craziness. There are a lot of other really fun comical characters who jump on stage and bounce off Pericles for a scene or two and are never seen again.

“So I need to find a way to make him noble, gentle, honorable, all of that, without making him boring. The character also ages 14 years in the play....so that can physically be a challenge.”

But he also points out that “despite the play's title, this is NOT a one-person show. Even if your Pericles is one of the greatest actors in the world, the show will die without the other characters around him done well. And I know we have achieved that. Katherine and the cast have done an amazing job of bringing out the humor, subtlety and touching moments.”

Pigeon Creek performances are based on the way Shakespeare's plays were originally presented in small towns around England. That means the audience can expect the 10-member “Pericles” cast to play multiple roles, to use minimal sets and costuming, and to perform with a high level of “in your face” energy – literally.

Tickets are \$12 for Creative 360 members and \$15 for non-members. The ticket includes an afterglow with the actors and a Wassail bowl. To order tickets call (989) 837-1885 or go on line to www.becreative360.org.

About Pigeon Creek: Pigeon Creek was founded in 1988 and takes its name from the Ottawa County park where it performed some of its earliest productions. In 2002 it began its touring repertory wing. Since 2004 it has been a partner organization of the Grand Haven Area Arts Council and has its own indoor performance facility. For more information about the company, visit www.pcshakespeare.com.

In the past two years Pigeon Creek has performed scenes from Shakespeare plays, *Twelfth Night* and *The Comedy of Errors* at Creative 360, both indoors and outdoors.

About Creative 360

Creative 360, formerly known as Creative Spirit Center, is a not-for-profit community arts and wellness organization founded in 1994. The Center's mission is to create an environment for people of all ages to experience the creative process through ongoing classes, art exhibits, events, concerts, speakers and outreach programs; and its goal is to enhance the development of physical, mental and spiritual wellness through the arts and humanities. Visit www.becreative360.org for more information about the winter roster at Creative 360, or call (989) 837-1885 to request a mailed copy.

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