

arts & entertainment news



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**Milo Ventimiglia
Named Hasty Pudding
Man of the Year**

Milo Ventimiglia, who stars as Jack Pearson in the award-winning hit television drama "This is Us," was named 2019 Man of the Year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals. Ventimiglia was selected because he has made "significant impressions on television and film," the oldest theatrical organization in the U.S. said. It also didn't hurt that he played heartthrob Jess Mariano on the television show "Gilmore Girls".

— The Associated Press

Backstage Pass

INSIGHTS ON STAGE, SCREEN AND BEYOND

**A Midsummer
Night's Dream
— Listen
Closely; You'll
Laugh Hard**



**HOW
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The Villages Entertainment sells tickets in person at their four box office locations or online at thevillagesentertainment.com

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Brownwood: 2726 Brownwood Blvd.

Savannah Center: 1545 N. Buena Vista Blvd.



THEATER REVIEW

By Kristen Fiore, Daily Sun

As silly as it sounds, I was a little nervous to see "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center on Wednesday night.

I kept thinking back to this big red heavy book containing the complete works of Shakespeare that I had when I took a Shakespeare class in college.

It was a six-week class, so each week I had to read

multiple plays. I'd open the book, turn its Bible-thin pages and start reading only to realize that my eyes had glazed over and nothing I'd read had made sense.

All of the plays that I read were tragedies, so I knew whatever I was reading would pretty much always end in everyone dying. That got a little old after a while.

And then after a lot of painful skimming and even more reading summaries online in attempt to make sense of it all, I'd have to write an essay that sounded like I knew what I was talking about.

Maybe that's what I'm doing now, but I'd like to think that I have more of a handle on "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Because let me tell you — seeing it and hearing it is so much better and more entertaining than reading it.

So a big thank-you to The Sharon and Aquila Theatre for changing my perspective in regards to good old William Shakespeare.

Aquila Theatre's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was simple in both set and costumes, but I thought

Please See NEXT PAGE



Aquila Theater's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" provided abundant laughs Wednesday night at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

Submitted photo

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CELEBRITY SPOTLIGHT



KATE del CASTILLO

The actress doesn't regret arranging a 2015 meeting between drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman and Sean Penn, although the fallout kept her from working in Mexico for three years.



GWYNETH PALTROW

The actress has been accused in a new lawsuit Tuesday of breaking a man's ribs and leaving him with a concussion when she smashed into him from behind while skiing at a Utah ski resort in 2016.



CHRISTINA AGUILERA

The singer is joining the growing number of musicians launching residencies in Las Vegas. Aguilera announced Tuesday that "Christina Aguilera: The Xperience" will open at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino on May 31.

NEW ORLEANS

French Quarter Festival Lineup Announced, Includes Galactic

More than 250 acts on nearly two dozen stages scattered throughout New Orleans' historic French Quarter and along the Mississippi River front are on tap for the 2019 French Quarter Festival. The lineup includes contemporary funk band Galactic, which is making its festival debut on April 11, opening day. Many of the acts announced this year were rebooked after rain canceled their 2018 performances.

— The Associated Press

Continued from Previous Page

this strengthened the show, because there weren't really any distractions.

It was just you, the actors and a whole lot of Elizabethan English.

As I initially feared, the language threw me off at first, but as I settled into the play — which was made up of fairy queens and love triangles and magical juice that when rubbed into one's eyes makes them fall in love with the first person (or donkey-headed man) that they look at — I noticed the language less and less.

By the end of the first half, I not only understood what was going on, but was enjoying myself quite a bit.

The acting and line delivery was animated, quick and superb.

The story was whimsical and humorous.

Village of Dunedin resident Jolene Puhr, a woman I met in the audience, said that seeing a Shakespeare play is like having the CliffsNotes to the script, and I have to agree.

It's just a lot more fun.

"I like Shakespeare. I was an English major," Puhr said. "I like the humor. It's very subtle. You have to really listen for it."

Linda Miller and Richard Somma, of the Village of Caroline, said they were enjoying the performance.

"The man who plays Nick Bottom is excellent, but the whole cast is very accomplished," Somma said.

I also agree with them on that.

Nick Bottom, played by Jack Klaff, went around shaking hands with audience members before the show and introducing himself as Nick Bottom.

During the show, he perfectly portrayed an overly eager and attention seeking

actor, and it was hilarious when his head turned into a donkey's.

It's the things like this that we can only find in Shakespeare, and I'm glad I got to see such a pure portrayal of one of his most notorious comedies.

Kristen Fiore is a senior staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.

'Red Line' Puts Former 'ER' Star At Center of Police Shooting Drama

The new CBS show will be a change for Noah Wyle, who rose to fame in the medical drama from 1994-2009.

By LYNN ELBER
The Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif.

Noah Wyle is back in Chicago for a TV drama that's far different than the 1990s hit "ER" that launched his career.

In CBS' limited series "The Red Line," Wyle's character loses his African-American husband in a mistaken police shooting that's the catalyst for family anguish and social uproar.

Wyle, who went from fresh-faced Dr. Carter in NBC's 1994-2009 medical drama "ER" to action series including "The Librarian" and "Falling Skies," choked up as he discussed "The Red Line," a title referring to a major train line that cuts through Chicago's diverse neighborhoods.

"My emotional reaction to my first reading of the script was so intense. I've never read

a piece of material that moved me like that. I can't even talk about the show without getting upset," Wyle told a TV critics' meeting Wednesday, pausing to gather himself.

In the eight-episode limited series debuting April 28, the shooting of teacher Daniel Calder's doctor-husband leaves him as single dad to their daughter, Jira. The survivors are mired in grief, while the police officer at fault for killing an innocent man faces the public and legal repercussions of his actions.

Noel Fisher plays Officer Paul Evans, Aliyah Royale plays Jira and Emayatzy Corinealdi is Jira's birth mother

in the series from executive producers that include Greg Berlanti ("God Friended Me"), Ava DuVernay ("Selma") and Erica Weiss and Caitlin Parrish. The latter two are Chicago writers whose play inspired the drama.

The series is a departure for

CBS, long criticized for a lack of ethnic diversity in its scripted series. While the network has started to make up ground in recent seasons with inclusive casts, a series that promises a direct take on a highly charged social topic is unusual for CBS, as is the limited format.



The man who plays Nick Bottom is excellent, but the whole cast is very accomplished."

RICHARD SOMMA
Village of Caroline

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