

music/theatre FOCUS

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Raising the rafters

CORNISH Comik Jethro is back at the Princess Theatre, Torquay, with his new tour *Laughter in the Rafters*. He's still one of the busiest and biggest selling character comedians on the circuit. Find out why in his 2006 tour. Jethro aims to raise the rafters with his tonic of life... 'Laughter'. Be sure to hold onto your seats, as you will be entertained, by one of the funniest story tellers to date. A show not to be missed. The show, which starts at 7.30pm, is for adults only. He'll also be at the Torquay venue on August 14/21/28. Book now by calling 08702 414120.

Can you complete choir?

SINGERS are needed to help complete a choir which will sing at the 6th annual Choral Concert at Buckfast Abbey on September 2. It has been organised by the Rotary Club of Ashburton and Buckfastleigh. At present, they are particularly looking for tenor and bass singers to address the balance of the make up of the choir. The choir is made up of singers from across Devon and Cornwall who pay a nominal donation for the privilege to be part of the choir. It will be conducted by Christopher Fletcher with soloist Christine Marsden, Peter Evans, Sarah Farleigh and John Hobbs. The organ accompanist will be Keith Warner. Anybody who would like to join the choir should have some singing experience. Call Robin Firnmore on 01625 821294 for more details.



Cast members Dion (Elliot Tiney), King Leontes (Tony Portacio), Antigonus (Christopher Terry), Paulina, Wendy Macphee) rehearse a scene from Shakespeare's classic play.

A Winter in summer

THE International company Theatre Set-Up celebrate their 30th anniversary with Shakespeare's powerful and dramatic masterpiece, *The Winter's Tale*. They are performing in the venue of Powderham Castle,

Kenton, at 7.30pm on Thursday. With a magnificent setting coupled with opulent costumes, exquisite music and an exciting story combined with the pleasure of wine and picnicking in the open air and you have the perfect summer evening's entertainment. In this powerful drama with its happy

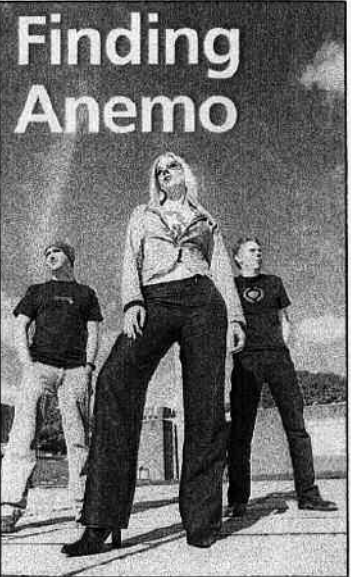
rustic interludes, the violent anger of King Leontes almost destroys all his family, but fate intervenes and provides one of the most magical joyful endings in all theatre. Those who go along should take their own rugs and folding chairs. Picnics welcome. It starts at 7.30pm. Call 01625 890243 for tickets.



A tale to tell - Queen Hermione (Morag Brownlie) and Mamillius (Karen Boniface).

DARLINGS of US College Radio, Brighton three-piece band Anemo are bringing their brand of modern rock back home with the release of their double A-side debut single *Made of Faction/Fallout Renegade* which is released on the same day they play at Three Fat Fish, Exeter - August 14. They will be releasing their debut album *Slowburn* in September. *Slowburn*, released in America last autumn on the New York label City Canyons Records, has already achieved critical acclaim. College radio blasted out album tracks with more than 160 stations picking up the record. Their polished sound comes from classically trained pianist/keyboardist Kingsley Sage who produces all the music for band members Michael Fallon, who has worked with LeAnn Rimes, Matt Palmer on rock guitar and Hazelle Woodhurst, vocals.

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Finding Anemo

Storm the castle for a fantastic festival

HUNDREDS of festival-goers are expected to storm the ancient battlements of Totnes Castle when English Heritage throws open the gates for a major festival of music, dance, theatre, film and circus tomorrow. Organisers of the Tales from the Keep Festival announced an eclectic line up for the event, which they hope will be the jewel in the crown of this year's festival at Totnes. Dozens of artists are busy preparing for weeks of festivities in the town, which also boasts its 800-year Charter celebrations this year and the launch of a major new annual festival in September. On stage in the castle bailey tomorrow will be four new theatre performances written by actors from Totnes Young People's Theatre, including *The Terrible Dart Monster*, *The Time Travellers of Zama*, *Freeze!* and *English Heritage!* - a comedy set in the castle described as *The Da Vinci Code* meets *Scoby* Doo.

Ghostly newlyweds of Victorian Totnes explain the tragic link between Saxon history and teenage romance in *Times Gone By*, and theatre-lovers will also have another chance to see extracts from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* performed by Dartington Playgoers. Headline band Swervy World will be leading a day of music from all over the planet, including the Breton minstrels *Charivari*, medieval dance musicians *Compagnie Giulia* and three-piece urban hip hop band *Ghost Productions*. There will also be performances of songs from the shows, church choral music, ballads and opera from the Erme Singers, and organisers are still keen to hear from musicians interested in playing on the music stage at the event. The festival, which won funding from the Local Network Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council, also features storytelling from David Doyle and films from the Blind Ditch Variand digital

media project - a funky caravan transformed into a hi-tech travelling drama complete with graffiti paint-job and films made by young people from all around Devon. Young people behind bars at the Atkinson Secure Unit, Exeter have also contributed to the festival, working with TYPT and Value Theatre to tell their stories via the audio art installation featuring a soundtrack by Ghost Productions. And performers from *Tango Oblivion* and *Circomedica* - the UK's leading centre for circus and physical theatre - will be dancing, tumbling, tightrope walking, balancing and stiltwalking throughout the proceedings. Organiser Tiffany Strawson said there was still time for local people to get involved in workshops for the event. For information on mask-making, lantern-making, decorating the castle, storytelling or joining the parades, telephone 01364 73026.

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Glitter and glam

GET out those glitter wigs and dress up for the Sheldon Open Air Theatre's fun finale on Wednesday. At the Dunsford venue see *Diamondogz* perform glam rock hits from the 70s. This energetic and exhilarating performance from the decade when pop music not only felt and sounded good, but looked great too. With outrageous costumes and glitter make-up, the band's energy is utterly infectious. It starts at 8pm. Book now by calling 01647 252752.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY: 1967 - A Monkees fan hid on the band's plane between their shows in Minneapolis and St Louis.