

The Buzz



THE PLAY'S THE THING FIVE MINUTES WITH SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL'S NEW DIRECTOR

Last September, Rick Dildine left Chicago's edgy About Face Theatre to become Shakespeare Festival St. Louis' first executive director. Only 30, he's got the resume of someone a decade older, and for the festival's 10th season, he's overseeing the production of one of Shakespeare's most ambitious plays: *Hamlet*.

—STEFENE RUSSELL

This marks a return to outdoor theater for you. I got a lot of my producing and directing experience by running a large outdoor venue in Kentucky, the Stephen Foster theater... When you're competing with nature, you have to put language and music onstage that can compete; it's huge. So Shakespeare is the perfect match for that.

Tell me about choosing *Hamlet*. The top two questions you have to tackle before you even tell anyone you're doing *Hamlet*: Do you have the guy who can play Hamlet? And do you have the person who can direct it? We have those people here, [director Bruce Longworth and lead actor Jim Butz].

Last year, Shakespeare Glen got an overhaul.

What's new in 2010? This year is not just going to be a flat piece of scenery. It will have a lot more depth. In fact, it's going to come out over what is the existing stage right now, and will jut out at the audience. We're really trying to create a new experience.

HAMLET RUNS MAY 28 TO JUNE 20. CALL 314-531-9800 OR VISIT SFSTL.COM FOR DETAILS.

SPORTS

THE GOLDEN YEARS

Some seniors equate gold with medals—not age.

The athletes who compete at the annual St. Louis Senior Olympics (May 27-31) just love to wax on about the camaraderie of the whole experience—the spaghetti party for the swimmers, the shuffleboard players bonding over a good joke... But scratch a kindly grandma, and you'll find a serious competitor with a stack of medals that would make Mary Lou Retton hang her head in shame.

—B.K.



	ALVIN WOLFF JR.	CONNIE STROHBACH	BILL CANNON
AGE	55	63	79
OCCUPATION	Attorney	Personal trainer	Biz-development manager
SPORT(S)	Squash: "You have to think quickly and be really focused."	Softball, volleyball, shot put, discus, javelin, long jump, home-run derby, weight lifting...	Swimming: "I organize a Spaghetti Bash for the swimmers, a big dinner for 120 people."
JOINT(S)	Hip (1)	Knees (2)	None
IMPRESSIVE ATHLETIC PAST	Nationally ranked in squash from '80-'86	Medaled at state, national, and international Senior Olympics	On the U.S. Masters Swim Club; has won 2,000-plus medals
FANTASY EVENT	"In a pie-, rib-, or fried chicken-eating contest, I could hold my own."	"More team events like field hockey and lacrosse. And to have Whole Foods cater the games."	"Helping more older people to do more than one event. I also do the javelin, high jump, shot put, discus, darts, and bocce."
IS AGE JUST A NUMBER?	"Yes, but after three or four days with a match a day, I'm asking my body to do things it can't do anymore—my hip implant takes a pounding."	"I never consider how old I am. I do consider my mom and where she was at my age. She had bad knees, too. And I overused mine playing field hockey and volleyball for years."	"I talk to students in the gerontology classes at Wash. U. each year to show em that people over 50 are not all washed-up."

SOUND BITE

"It's a bird's-eye view of two of the greatest waterways in our nation." —Deanna Barnes, projects manager with the village of Hartford, Ill., on the Lewis & Clark Confluence Tower (confluenttower.com). Slated to open May 14, the 180-foot beacon is a decade and \$5.4 million in the making. 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily; \$4 adults, \$2 children