

In "Shakespeare Gets an MFA," a modern-day Bard submits "Romeo and Juliet" as his thesis.

SHAKESPEARE THIS IS NOT

Witches run amok as Greenville

Little Theatre's Studio 444 rehearses "Macbeth Mixed Up," one of four one-act comedies in "Not So Shakespeare." PHOTOS BY MYKAL MCELDOWNEY/STAFF

By Paul Hyde
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It's a Shakespearean summer in downtown Greenville, with productions of "Twelfth Night" at the Warehouse Theatre and "Henry V" at Falls Park.

Meanwhile, the Greenville Little Theatre's alternative troupe, Studio 444, will be poking affectionate fun at the Bard with four one-act comedies on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.

"The plays are about 10 minutes long each, and all are inspired by Shakespeare," says Katie King, overall director of the show called "Not So Shakespeare."

"They're very short but very funny," adds King, associate director at Greenville Little Theatre.

The four plays, with cast sizes ranging from two characters to 11, feature local actors and directors.

The Laughing Stock, Greenville Little Theatre's improv group, will perform after the plays.

The four featured plays are:

» **"Romeo Revised" by Wade Bradford.** What if Romeo and Juliet didn't actually die? The two-person play suggests some alternative endings for Shakespeare's tragedy. King directs the play.

» **"Green Eggs and Hamlet" by Justin Moran.** If "Hamlet" were written by droll rhymester Dr. Seuss, the result would be this 11-person play. It will be directed by Deb Warren.

» **"Macbeth Mixed Up" by Wade Bradford.** One of the witches from "Macbeth" has fallen into a cauldron, so a substitute is needed. The two remaining witches call Rent-a-Witch, but the newcomer turns out to be a bubbly goody two-shoes. Shea Bahnsen directs.

» **"Shakespeare Gets an MFA" by Alexis Kozak.** In a modern university, Shakespeare submits "Romeo and Juliet" as his thesis and his professor tells him why it'll never be successful. Peter Lupu directs.

■ See Paul Hyde's blog under Entertainment at greenvilleonline.com. Follow him on Twitter: @PaulHyde7.

YOU CAN GO

What: Studio 444's "Not So Shakespeare," featuring four one-act plays; Greenville Little Theatre's improv group, the Laughing Stock, performs after the plays.
When: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday
Where: Greenville Little Theatre, 444 College Ave.
Tickets: $8
Information: 864-233-6238 or www.greenvillelittletheatre.org