

Gerald Schwarz
Dramaturg
Jim Turner
Producer

THE
ELIZABETH RIVER THEATRE COMPANY
FOUNDED IN 2000

Newsletter 7 / March 2002

CALENDAR: THE PARABLE OF THE 3 RINGS

April 7 (2 PM)

Courthouse Galleries, Olde Towne Portsmouth. **FREE !!**
(more information overleaf)

SCAPIN

May 10 (8 PM), May 12 (2 PM)

Contemporary Arts Center Virginia Beach
co-produced with the North Street Playhouse, Onancock



***"How am I supposed to say SCAPIN ??"* ***

With the onslaught of bigtime culture bearing down hard on us this April and May in the form of tattoos and ballets, bluegrass legends and Shakespeare-to-music, we want to encourage you to save room on your festival calendar for a simple evening (or afternoon) of inspired madcap hilarity: The Elizabeth River Theatre Company, in cooperation with the North Street Playhouse on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, presents Bill IRWIN and Mark O'DONNELL's 1996 adaptation of MOLIERE's farcical comedy *Scapin*. **TWO SHOWS ONLY: Friday May 10 at 8 PM, and Sunday May 12 (Mother's Day) at 2 PM.**

ERT Ticket line:
647-2745

Scapin gets laughs the old-fashioned way: It makes fun of people - miserly fatcats, mushmouthed teen lovers, inane theatre types (on both sides of the footlights), and that old farcical standby, foreigners with funny accents. Irwin and O'Donnell honor (and send up) the stock characters, fortuitous pairings and unlikely plot twists of MOLIERE's original while spicing things up with 20th century touches: a bit of vaudeville, some Keystone Cops, a little Harlem Globetrotters, nods to '70s cop movies, '80s soap operas, '90s TV game shows.

ERT Ticket line:
647-2745

This is a homegrown show produced to great acclaim last summer at the **North Street Playhouse** in Onancock under the direction of ERT's Jim (overleaf)

4760 River Shore Road
Portsmouth, VA 23703

ERTCO@AOL.com

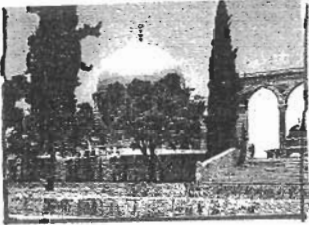
TURNER. Now it's ready to take on the world: *Scapin* goes global two weeks after the CACV show when it travels to the International Festival of Non-professional Theatre - as the first ever US entry there! - in Holzhausen, Austria **.

Catch the WAVE! Reserve your tickets now for *Scapin* by calling 647-2745. Give your Mom the gift of bellylaughs this Mother's Day!

ERT Ticket line:
647-2745

*) You may want to try "Ska-PENH", which is pretty French; or go for "Ske-PEEN"; VERY daring specimens have also done "SKAY-pin" in the past (not too French).

***) So much for "funny accents"! (The dramaturg)



"The Parable of the 3 Rings" and beyond

Another Sunday afternoon with the arts?

April 7, at 2 PM, the Courthouse Galleries in Olde Towne Portsmouth (on the corner of High and Court Street) will see the premiere of *The Parable of the 3 Rings*, an introduction-cum-sneak-preview to our Fall 2002 production of *Nathan the Wise* by Gotthold Ephraim

LESSING, highlighting the essential question in this haunting play: What if three religions have grown out of the same soil and cannot seem to co-exist peacefully? A group of humans is thrust into this quest by events in 1192 Jerusalem, and maybe Mankind's innate goodness is the only mirror of their contested god... Expect the entire beauty of *Nathan the Wise*, directed by Gerald SCHWARZ, in October and November (with more information to come); but on April 7, Tim MORTON and Jim TURNER will make words of wisdom come alive...

Do you still need more arguments for another Sunday afternoon with the arts? Hey, it's free! And you can bring the kids! Plus, Olde Towne Portsmouth is always worth another walk (or a first discovery, for that matter!)

Company News:

It has come true: Since Dec. 14, 2001, ERT has tax-exempt status, which will allow us to step up our fundraising efforts. We are confident that with our track record and our pool of truly gifted artists, we will be able to shape things up theatrically around here! -

On the same page, we are happy to announce that Janie PRINCE (a well-known face on-stage in Hampton Roads; she has also sung & played Adele in our inaugural *Fledermaus*) has joined our team as director of development... stay tuned.

Thank-you's to those of you (like Dr. Petra GURTNER, Janet & Dr. Paul KOVALCIK and Wendy Jo EINHORN BRODSKY) who made well-appreciated year-end donations; Al TAYLOR and Michael MORGAN (pro-bono legal work and tax return work, respectively); Natasha BUNNELL and Karen LEVY for advice; Tim MORTON; the theatre faculty at ODU; Dr. Catharine COOKSON of the Centre for the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan; and Houssam QURAIID for cultural information.