



July 8, 2004

Contact: Lisa A. Fellers
Director of Communications
Office: (817) 531-4498
Cell: (817) 874-8683
lfellers@txwes.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mom introduces kids to Shakespeare
Latin theatre adds bilingual twist

FORT WORTH, July 8 – Local mom and playwright Connie Whitt-Lambert has adapted a child-friendly version of William Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Whitt-Lambert, professor and chair of the theatre department at Texas Wesleyan University, says, “I wrote this adaptation about 10 or 12 years ago as a way to introduce children to Shakespeare. My daughter, who was 10 years old at the time, wanted to read some of Shakespeare’s plays but couldn’t quite understand the text as written. I assumed that if my child was interested, then perhaps others were too.”

On July 17, Teatro de la Rosa, Fort Worth’s only in-house Latin theatre company, will perform the adaptation, with a bilingual twist. Some characters speak only in Spanish, some only in English and some deliver lines in both languages. The presentation is a unique blend of Shakespeare and seaside fun. This version of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* is set on a Spanish seaside, complete with fish, instead of the play’s traditional fairies. Yvonne Duque, the director for the play and program coordinator for Teatro de la Rosa, is no stranger to the theatrical

-more-

July 8 – Mom Adapts Shakespeare, page 2.

world, having been immersed in it for the past 19 years and actively involved with children's theatre for 12. She is also very familiar with Whitt-Lambert's adaptation, having directed it in 1992, in Denton.

Whitt-Lambert's adaptation was first produced by Circle Theatre at the Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration and directed by the playwright herself. With dozens of plays to her credit, Whitt-Lambert has produced most all of them, and as a theatre professor at Wesleyan has taught generations of thespians for over 15 years, saying teaching is what she loves best.

"I love the interaction with the kids," says Whitt-Lambert. "They teach me as much as I teach them."

The performance by the theatre troupe, ages 8-17, will debut on July 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Rose Marine Theater, located at 1440 N. Main St. and is a part of Teatro de la Rosa's first annual summer youth camp, called the 1440 Experience, named after the theater's street address. Each year, the summer and after-school programs provide theatre basics to approximately 60 young people, ages 8-19. The program is made possible through a Community Development Block Grant from the city of Fort Worth. Students who live in community development block areas and meet the income requirements are eligible to participate.

Tickets for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* are \$5 per person. For tickets or information on Teatro de la Rosa's award-winning youth program, call (817) 624-8333 or visit the Web site at www.rosemarinetheater.com.

###