



'Comedy of Errors' Comes To Flushing

BY BARBARA ARNSTEIN

Husband and wife Jason and Joy Marr, co-founders of the non-profit Hip to Hip Theatre Company, are living their theatrical dream for the sixth consecutive summer: acting in, directing and sometimes co-starring in their company's free family-friendly productions of Shakespeare's comedies and dramas. This

summer, in a dozen parks throughout Queens, including Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Jason played the lead in "Hamlet" opposite Joy's Ophelia, and both acted in "The Comedy of Errors," directed by Jason, in which his wife played a leading role.

On Aug. 16, "Errors" was performed at the Voelker Orth Museum, a beautiful setting with many kinds of flowers, lots of greenery and a trellis full of grapes. The large, appreciative audience enjoyed the hilarious plot involving the misadventures of two sets of identical twin brothers, separated soon after birth, who share only two names (Antipholus and Dromio) and were impressively played by only two actors, Alex Teicheira and Guy Ventoliere. How is this possible when all four brothers are seen at the same time at the end of the play? The "other two" were briefly portrayed by the backs of two other actors, as was often done on the old "Patty Duke Show". Confused? Imagine how Antipholus and Dromio feel when the play begins, as they arrive in the town of Ephesus, where, unbeknownst to them, their "other halves" live, and endless moments of mistaken identity immediately begin turning their day into comic chaos. Eventually the confusion engulfs a dozen other people, and the resulting fast-paced scenes involve slapstick, puns galore, a ridiculous ritual to treat imagined madness, and even love at first sight (involving the talented Elizabeth Ahrens as sweet Luciana).

Both Teicheira and Ventoliere excellently handled the marathon task of continuously switching back and forth from character to character, and all the dialogue involving rapid-fire punning, delivering two very entertaining performances of classic clowning. Joy Marr was wonderful as Adriana, wife of Antipholus of Ephesus. As she did when she played Kate in Hip to Hip's "Taming of the Shrew" two summers ago, she eloquently delivered lines spoken by an assertive woman speaking for all women, as she seeks more consideration from a man. The monologue near the end in which Adriana describes the entire chaotic situation was a masterpiece of fast-talking.