

Westword Night and Day

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No Holds Bard

The local troupe presents unrehearsed versions of Shakespeare's plays, with an onstage prompter and no director.....

Shakin' Things Up

Amber Taufen

Poor Shakespeare. He might be hailed as the greatest English-language writer ever, but modern performances of his plays don't always live up to that reputation. In today's world, his works can seem uninspired, unintelligible and, well, boring.

No Holds Bard is on a mission to perform Shakespeare as the Bard himself intended: unrehearsed and undirected. Shakespeare's actors performed a different play every day, so there was no time for rehearsal.

No Holds Bard actors are "in the position that the character would be in — not knowing exactly what will happen and having to respond in the moment," says company director John Kissingford. The result is fresh, interactive, fun, and unlike any Shakespeare you've ever seen.

The company's summer tour begins at 6 p.m. this evening with *The Merchant of Venice* in the Historic Elitch Gardens Theatre, 38th Avenue and Tennyson Street; tickets are \$10. Tomorrow night, catch *Measure for Measure*. Visit www.noholdsbard.com or call 720-252-6182 for a full schedule of performance dates and locations. *The Merchant of Venice*. Sat., July 1, 6 p.m., \$10. Historic Elitch Gardens, 38th Ave. and Tennyson St., Denver.

<http://listings.westword.com/gyrobase/Events/Results?category=oid:18184>

