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SUMMER STAGES

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"Monkey: Journey to the West," based on a Chinese folk tale, will open the Lincoln Center Festival in New York.
 WILLIAM STRUHS

By STEVEN McELROY
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ARKANSAS

ARKANSAS SHAKESPEARE THEATER, June 6-30. Alfresco Shakespeare and summertime have been a solid couple for a long time, so "Much Ado About Nothing" presented outdoors at both the Village at Hendrix in Conway and the Argenta Arts District in North Little Rock, seems like quintessential summer fun for theater folk. At Reynolds Performance Hall, Arkansas Shakespeare will also offer "King Lear," "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and, for a detour, the musical "Oliver!" (866) 810-0012, arkshakes.com.

CALIFORNIA

CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER Orinda. Te comedy "American

productions planned are the Marx Brothers farce “Animal Crackers” (June 26-July 14) and George Bernard Shaw’s “Pygmalion” (July 17-27). (413) 597-3400, wtfestival.org.

NEVADA

LAKE TAHOE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL Incline Village. Fairies, sprites and young lovers will overtake the outdoor Warren Edward Trepp Stage at Sand Harbor State Park for “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” (July 12-Aug. 25), directed by Charles Fee. (800) 747-4697, laketahoeshakespeare.com.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

PETERBOROUGH PLAYERS The small theater in a converted 18th-century barn here will present a varied slate of shows, including “Two Pianos Four Hands” (July 10-21), Chekhov’s “Seagull” (July 24-Aug. 4) and Alan Ayckbourn’s “Absurd Person Singular” (Aug. 21-Sept. 1), to name but a few. (603) 924-7585, peterboroughplayers.org.

NEW JERSEY

SHAKESPEARE THEATER OF NEW JERSEY Shakespeare’s pastoral comedy “As You Like It” (June 19-July 28) will be presented outdoors at the amphitheater on the College of Saint Elizabeth campus. At the F. M. Kirby Shakespeare Theater at Drew University, the company will stage “The Playboy of the Western World” (May 29-June 23), Noel Coward’s “Fallen Angels” (July 3-28) and more. (973) 408-5600, shakespearenj.org.

SURFLIGHT THEATER Beach Haven. Sometimes the cliché “The show must go on” just plain fits. Over the last few years, SurfFlight has survived bankruptcy, a fire that damaged company housing and, most recently, \$750,000 worth of [damage from Hurricane Sandy](#). Regardless, a full season is planned, including “The Boy Friend” (May 24-June 16), “George M!” (June 19-July 7), “South Pacific” (July 10-28), “Les Misérables” (July 31-Aug. 24) and “You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown” (Aug. 28-Sept. 8). (609) 492-9477 , surflight.org.

NEW YORK CITY

ANT FEST June 3-29. This annual emerging artists extravaganza (the name stands for “All New Talent”), presented by Ars Nova, will include more than two dozen new works , each performed just once , as well as a concert series, a variety show and a lounge that stays open late every night. (212) 352-3101, arsnovanyc.com.

BRICK THEATER Williamsburg, Brooklyn. How often do we focus on the sound designer when seeing a show? Well the Brick has once again hit on an unusual theme for a theater festival, allowing sound designers to create works

that feature them for a change. “Sound Scape” (June 7-29) will give these artists a moment in the spotlight. Later comes the fifth installment of the “Game Play” festival (July 5-28), featuring productions that explore the intersection of gaming and performance. (212) 352-3101, bricktheater.com.

DELACORTE THEATER Central Park. Hamish Linklater and Jesse Tyler Ferguson will each (that’s right) play a pair of twins in the Public Theater’s production of Shakespeare’s “Comedy of Errors” (May 28-June 30), directed by Daniel Sullivan. The Delacorte season will also include “Love’s Labour’s Lost, A New Musical” (July 23-Aug. 18), adapted and directed by Alex Timbers (“[Here Lies Love](#)”), with songs by Michael Friedman (“[Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson](#)”). Summer’s end will bring a special musical adaptation of “The Tempest” (Sept. 6-8), conceived and directed by Lear deBessonet. The show, which springs from a new community-based initiative called Public Works, will feature some 200 New Yorkers from various communities joining professional actors in what ought to be a unique version of “The Tempest.” (212) 967-7555 , shakespeareinthepark.org.

EAST TO EDINBURGH Manhattan, July 9-28. This annual early look at American productions headed to the massive [Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#) will include “Longing for Grace,” written and performed by Grace Kiley and directed by Austin Pendleton, Sandro Monetti’s “Miserable Lesbians,” a musical parody based on “Les Misérables” and more than a dozen others, presented by 59E59 Theaters. (212) 279-4200, 59e59.org.

GAYFEST A 45-year-old man falls in love with a young college student, and things fall apart, in “Moonlight & Love Songs ,” by Scott C. Sickles. The play is part of this small festival that will also feature “The Loves of Mr. Lincoln ,” a play by David Brendan Hopes , about President Lincoln and a special man in his life. Though the festival focuses primarily on new work, it will also present the BASiC Theater Project production of “Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde ,” by Moisés Kaufman . (212) 352-3101 , gayfestnyc.com.

IN SCENA! This Italian theater festival includes a variety of events in all five boroughs. “In Scena!” (“on stage” in Italian), presented by [Kairos Italy Theater](#), is but one component of the massive cultural celebration “[Italy in U.S. 2013](#)” and includes several full productions and staged readings. (866) 263-2924, inscenany.com.

LINCOLN CENTER FESTIVAL July 6-28. This international event is always truly inventive, and this summer’s lineup maintains that reputation. The opening production, “[Monkey: Journey to the West](#),” is a musical theater piece based on a centuries-old Chinese folk tale about a monk on a sacred journey from China to India in search of sacred Buddhist scriptures. Conceived and directed by the opera and film director Chen Shi-Zheng, the production features