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Henry V, A Night of Shakespeare

Story and photos by Andi Bourne, *Pathfinder*

Friday night, Aug. 23, the clouds parted and the smoke faded for the Alpine Artisans and 2 Valleys Stage sponsored production of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks (MSIP) *Henry V*.

More than a hundred audience members enjoyed one of Shakespeare's great history plays on the Double Arrow grounds.



Mountjoy, the French Herald (Casey Hoekstra) and The Constable of France (Jonathan Altman) are confident that they will defeat the English.

Since its inception in 1973, MSIP has traveled more than 750,000 miles and put on more than 2,150 performances for more than three quarters of a million people. The company's mission is to provide quality professional theatre and Shakespearean educational programs to communities throughout Montana with an emphasis on rural areas.

"We started out with seven actors in seven towns and would beat a drum in the streets to gather an audience," said Steve Peebles, MSIP Company manager.



The Dauphine (Kody Walker) speaks to his father, King Charles VI of France (Steve Peebles).

Now MSIP is a nationally recognized professional company that presents a two-month tour of 75 performances in 60 communities to approximately 30,000 people every summer throughout Montana, northern Wyoming, western North Dakota, eastern Idaho and eastern Washington.

Henry V was performed by seven actors and three actresses. They portrayed the story of young King Henry V, who must gain the respect of the English after a wild adolescence.

After laying claim to certain parts of France, Henry V received an insulting message from the young prince of France so he decides to invade France.



King Henry V of England (Sean Driscoll) fights The Dauphine, prince and heir of France (Kody Walker).

At the Battle of Agincourt the English are severely outnumbered by the French. Henry, after disguising himself as a common soldier and learning the true thoughts of many of the soldiers in his camp, gives an inspiring speech to his soldiers. Miraculously the English win the battle.



The English invade France.

Henry is offered Katherine, the daughter of the French King as a peace offering. Through their union the kingdoms were united.



King Henry V (Sean Driscoll) courts Princess Katherine of France (Grayson Heyl) following his defeat of the French.

“The arts influence Montana in more ways than anyone knows,” said Ken Dvorak, President of Alpine Artisans. “Thanks to the mission and funding of Alpine Artisans those in Seeley Lake are able to experience the arts.”

The next 2 Valleys Stage performance will be Bottom Line Due, Oct. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Swan Valley School in Condon.

