Acadian Village Presents Two Cajun-Oriented Plays

The Acadian Village and Tropical Gardens will be featuring two plays reflecting Cajun culture during the Festivals Acadiens weekend, September 22 and 23. Festivals Acadiens features such diverse activities as the Bayou Food Festival, the Deep South Writers Conference, the Jaycees' Acadiana Fair and Trade Show, the Art Center for Southwestern Louisiana activities, the Louisiana Native Crafts Festival, the RSVP Senior Fair and Craft Show and the Tribute to Cajun Music, sponsored by CODOFIL (the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana).

Billy Jacob, chairman of the Festivals Acadiens organizing committee, explained that the purpose of the Festivals is to pay tribute to the remarkable and unique heritage of the Acadian people. At the same time, we're trying to encourage the preservation and continuation of these customs and this culture.

“The Acadian Village offers visitors a glimpse of what life might have been like in a 19th century setting. The village itself and the plays are an obvious part of what Festivals Acadiens is all about,” he said.

Keith Cravey, general manager of Acadian Village and Tropical Gardens, says the facility will be open during its regular hours, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

The special plays will be presented twice each day between the hours of 3 and 5 p.m., Cravey said.

One play, to be presented in English, is entitled "Eulalie: A Story of Bayou Teche." It was written by Clayelle Dufrener, a former Lafayette resident now living in New York City. It will be directed by Randy Holmes, with University of Southwestern Louisiana students and community young people as actors.

The other play, to be performed in Cajun French, is entitled "Jean L'Ours et La Fille du Rat." It was written by Barry Jean Ancellet, who is director of the Center of Acadian and Creole Folk Studies at USL. Carroll Doucet, instructor of French at Acadia High School, will direct the play with Acadia High students as actors.

Cravey said each play is about 30 minutes long and will be performed back-to-back at 3 p.m. and at 4 p.m. each day.

Guided tours of the village and gardens will start at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. both days.

A shuttle bus service will be used this year so that visitors may park at Ragin' Cajun Field, ride to the Jaycees' Fair at Blackham Coliseum and to the Festivals events centered around Girard Park. Buses are expected to make trips to the Acadian Village and Tropical Gardens every hour.

Cravey said regular admission fees will be charged: $2 for adults, and $1 for youths, ages six to 18, with children under six admitted free.