

Capitol Steps

June 24
Cutler Majestic Theatre
219 Tremont St., Boston
617-824-8000/www.maj.org

These guys are still around? There's no way these are the same people who started this in the '80s. It's got to be some sort of Menuendo-type thing where kids are bred to be torch-song political satirists. Listen to some of their latest titles: "Cheney and the Jets," "Duke of Oil" and "Electile Dysfunction."

www.somervilletheatreonline.com
It's Senegal's Afro-pop superstar Baaba Maal! He's performing with Daande Lenol, his 13-piece electric band! You've never heard of him or his band? You don't even know where Senegal is? No problem. The dude has a MySpace site. Swear to God. It's at www.myspace.com/baabamaal. You may dig the uplifting and mysterious tunes more than most recent music from this country.

JULY

My Yolanda Love

July 6 through July 23
Boston Playwrights Theatre

Summer Revels

June 24 through June 25
Children's Museum
300 Congress St., Boston
617-972-8300/www.revels.org

Dancers, jugglers and huge puppets along with songs from Africa, New Orleans, Haiti and the Georgia Sea Islands! It all ends with the lighting of a symbolic summer beacon along Boston's waterfront. It reminds us of a Robert Smigel cartoon called "The Baby, The Immigrant and The Guy on Mushrooms," where all three parties are equally fascinated with simple, yet cool stuff like this.



"JAY JOHNSON"



"CAPITOL STEPS"

Jay Johnson: the Two and Only

July 12 through August 6
Zero Arrow Theatre
Corner of Arrow St. and Mass. Ave., Cambridge
617-547-8300/www.amrep.org

This is a guy who is doing a one-man show with all these dummies. He's got a bird, a monkey, and this little Howdy Doody guy. Why is this in our ARTS preview? Let's just say "2006: the year ventriloquism broke." You heard it here first!

Copenhagen

July 20 through September 10
Christian Herter Park
Boston
617-782-5425/www.publicktheatre.org

At the height of World War II, German physicist Werner Heisenberg traveled to Copenhagen in search of his mentor, and the preeminent atomic physicist of the day, the half-Jewish Dane Niels Bohr. Their conversation, which has been the subject of much controversy and speculation, has never been revealed, but now there's a play which guesses at what they talked about. We think they could have taken more liberties and turned it into a musical, because you never know if maybe these two guys burst into song a lot.

The Taming of the Shrew

July 22 through August 13
Boston Common
617-532-1252
www.freeshakespeare.org

It's outdoors. It's free. It's not far from where you work. It's way too hot in your tiny apartment, and TV is all reruns during the summer. If you don't make it out to see at least one performance by the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, you have absolutely no culture and we will order you to attend the next installment of Rob Kapilow's "What Makes It Great?" series.

Hence These Tears

August 18 through August 30
Theatre info TBA
www.bostonactorstheater.com

With a title like this, we don't have to tell you that you won't start out your next conversation with, "I saw the funniest play the other night." A young man estranged from his family returns home for his mother's funeral. He is confronted with relationships he's worked hard to distance himself from until his girlfriend arrives. Of course he's then faced with the possibility of losing her too. Stick around for the pie fight.

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THE PUBLIC THEATRE

Moonlight

June 28 through July 1
BCA Theatre
279 Tremont St., Boston
617-933-8600/www.qe2players.org

In this Harold Pinter work, a bedridden civil servant and his levelheaded wife confront death with dry humor and a defiant curiosity. Beneath the calm, however, lurks a haunting and poetic drama of forgiving. It's a dreamscape of tangible emotion from the living master of our language. You know, kinda like "X-Men."

atre
949 Comm. Ave., Boston
781-777-1261
www.queersoup.net

Queer Soup Theatre presents this play where being passionate about someone or something isn't always the best thing, especially as it spins out of control in a pink motel room off of Route 66. Our aforementioned meathead might be a little more comfortable with this one, since it's lesbians instead of gay dudes, but he might find it difficult not to snicker at the name "Queer Soup."

The Beard of Avon

June 29 through September 3
Christian Herter Park
Boston
617-782-5425/www.publicktheatre.org

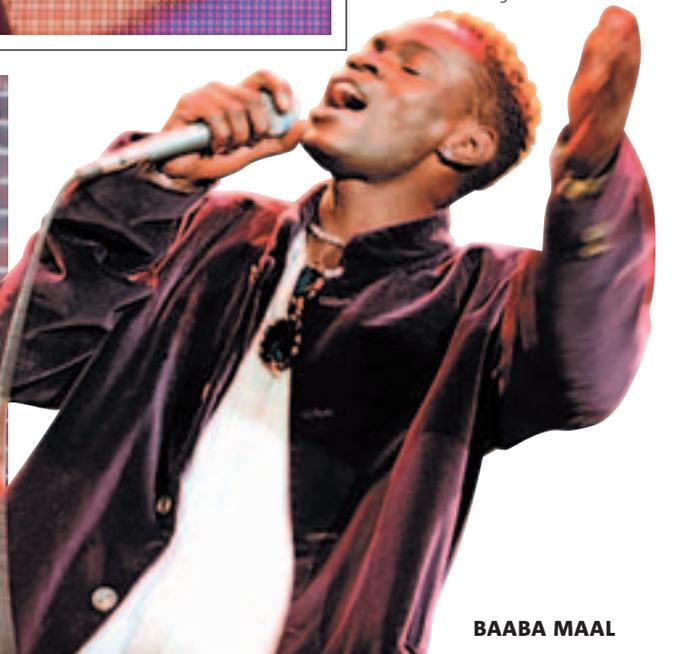
Who really wrote all of those plays attributed to Shakespeare? It's not like the Public Theatre is really going to get to the bottom of this question, but they'll get in a few intellectual jokes about it in their first open-air production of the season. The theatre is an amphitheatre on a worth-the-trip man-made island.



"MY YOLANDA LOVE"

Baaba Maal

June 30
Somerville Theatre
55 Davis Square, Somerville
617-625-5700



BAABA MAAL