

festivals battles diminishing crowds

Merging Ahead



CLINT KARLSEN/REVIEW-JOURNAL

Costumed members of the Utah Shakespearean Festival's Revels Company rev up audiences for an evening of Shakespeare with a free greenshow featuring Elizabethan-era songs and dances.

acknowledges R. Scott Phillips, the festival's managing director.

Anticipating a lean season, Festival officials set a \$5.6 million budget this year — up only \$100,000 from last year — and eliminated 12 seasonal staff positions.

But with ticket sales down almost \$200,000 so far in 2003, anticipatory belt-tightening might not be enough. Although the festival budgeted for ticket sales in the 150,000 range this year, “unless people start coming out in droves, we’re not going to get there,” Phillips says.

Little wonder “we’re tense,” admits Fred C. Adams, the festival’s founder and executive producer.

But things are tough all over. After all, “We’re seeing

IF YOU GO

Getting there: The Utah Shakespearean Festival is in Cedar City, Utah, 169 miles northeast of Las Vegas on Interstate 15.

Lodging: Such major chains as Best Western, Comfort Inn, Days Inn, EconoLodge, Hampton Inn, Motel 6, Ramada Limited, Super 8 Motel and Travelodge all have Cedar City locations, along with a host of bed-and-breakfast inns and such local properties as Abbey Inn, Stratford Court (formerly Quality Inn) and Crystal Inn (formerly Holiday Inn). During the festival season, motel rates range from about \$35 to more than \$100 per night.

Dining: Cedar City boasts a range of restaurants, from familiar fast-food and franchise names (Applebee’s, Sizzler) to hometown choices. Local favorites range from Rusty’s Ranch House and Milt’s Stage Stop, carnivore havens in Cedar Canyon, to such Main Street fixtures as LaFiesta Mexican Restaurant and Cantina, the Pizza Factory, the Heartland Cafe, Cedar Creek Inn, Sullivan’s Cafe and Boomer’s. For a quick bite before the plays, or coffee and dessert afterward, try Center Street’s Pastry Pub, which is open until midnight during the festival. And if you’re in a rush, you can always dine alfresco at the festival; Cornish pasties, meat pies, potatoes and other victuals are available at the Sweet Shop in the Adams Shakespearean Theatre courtyard.

When to go: The Utah Shakespearean Festival’s summer season continues through Aug. 30 with performances Mondays through Saturdays; a separate fall season, featuring Shakespeare’s “The Comedy of Errors,” Oscar Wilde’s classic comedy “The Importance of

SPOTLIGHT

Arts center exhibits multimedia works

The Cultural Affairs Division of the Las Vegas Department of Leisure Services will present “A Way With Words,” an exhibition of sculptor and painter Susan Hensel’s multimedia books.

The display will run from July 11 through Aug. 24 at the Charleston Heights Arts Center, 800 S. Brush St.

Hensel will conduct a Japanese bookbinding workshop from 1 to 5 p.m. Aug. 17. Admission is free.

Hensel earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in painting and sculpture from the University of Michigan. She exhibits in galleries, competitions and museums throughout the United States. Her work is represented in numerous collections.

Gallery hours are from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The gallery is closed Mondays.