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Daniel Mears / The Detroit News

Ramona Brand plays Turtle Woman and Hilary Cohen plays Wind during a rehearsal of Wild Swan Theatre's "Musicians of the Sun."

Family

Aztec-based play creates a feast for the eyes and ears

'Musicians of the Sun,' performed in English, Spanish and sign, weaves colorful, dramatic tale.

By Ellyce Field / Special to The Detroit News

Who will win control of the color and music in the universe? Will it be the Sun God, resplendent in a shimmering yellow tunic and huge sun-ray mask-headress, or the Night God, ferocious in his blue-gray, spider-web cape and oversized feathered mask-headress?

Ann Arbor's Wild Swan Theatre weaves the Aztec myth of creation into a tapestry of color and sound in their new bilingual play, "Musicians of the Sun." The play opens to school audiences on Wednesday through Dec. 9, and offers two public performances Dec. 10 and 11.

A rehearsal showed the story to be immediately captivating, seamlessly spoken in English and Spanish as well as continuously interpreted in American Sign Language and advanced gracefully through mime, dance and music.

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If you go

What: "Musicians of the Sun,"

Playwright Madeline Deihl's lovely script is based on the book of the same title by prolific children's author Gerald McDermott. The biggest stars of the show are the jewel-colored costumes, created by costume designer Suzanne Young. A rainbow of colors decorated with native quilt motifs cover the cast who change characters by donning totemic animal headdresses.

Action is underscored and forwarded by haunting live music composed by Andrea Reinkemeyer and played by an orchestra of students enrolled in the Ann Arbor School of Performing Arts.

With its usual combination of talent and creativity, Wild Swan Theatre gift wraps a rich multi-cultural experience and makes it accessible to all children.

performed bilingually in Spanish and English with continuous American Sign Language.

When: Approximately 45 minutes with no intermission. 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Wed.-Dec. 9 for school audiences; 2 p.m. Dec. 10-11 for the public.

Where: Towsley Auditorium, Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron Drive, Ann Arbor Township.

Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 children. For groups of 10 or more, \$8 adult, \$5 children.

Information: (734) 995-0930. Call for backstage touch tours and audio description for patrons who are blind. A well-written study guide is available for teachers.

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