Shakespearean ‘Love’ at the Lied

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For many, the month of February implies picking up flowers, signing cards and buying boxes of chocolate for their loved ones. Instead of buying into the many Valentine’s Day aisles of Target, take your special someone or go with a group of friends to Creighton’s production of “Love’s Labor’s Lost,” one of Shakespeare’s earliest plays.

“Love’s Labor’s Lost” is about the King of Navarre and his three fellow lords who decide to abstain from any pursuit of romance for a period of three years in order to pursue the study of arts and sciences, said director Alan Klem.

After the men swear their oath, the Princess of France and her beautiful ladies-in-waiting come to Navarre. Ironically, soon after, the lords fall in love.

The men try to find ways to pursue the ladies without breaking their oath.

“Pretty much the whole play revolves around that,” Klem said.

During the play, it is announced to the Princess of France that her father has died, making her the Queen of France and forcing her to realize her political responsibilities, which changes the tone of the play.

With rehearsals beginning before Christmas, the cast has been working diligently to master the language of Shakespeare.

The most challenging aspect of the play is “finding your way around Shakespeare’s words. Performing it is such a challenge because you are just trying to find the meaning behind it,” said Rachel Mans, Arts & Sciences sophomore.

While many of the actors enjoy working with the Shakespearean language they also find it to be a challenge.

“It’s always fun to do Shakespeare because it’s challenging in the fact that, obviously, we don’t talk anything like that, so there’s that dimension, discovering what you’re actually saying before you can do anything with it,” said Jerry Woiderski, Arts & Sciences junior.

“The best part of being in the play is getting to do Shakespeare – I’ve never been in a Shakespearean play, although I have wanted to. The language is awesome and my character likes to throw big words around,” said Rebecca Schier, Arts & Sciences junior, who plays a schoolmistress.

Another challenge is “helping the audience understand the script and what is being said on stage,” said Matt Denomour, Arts & Sciences junior, who plays a member in the King’s Court.

Many college students may have a hard time convincing themselves that they can relate to a Shakespearean play. However, Klem feels differently.

“I think were doing it in a way that you don’t have to be by any means a Shakespeare purist to enjoy it and understand what is going on,” Klem said.

I mean, if you’re young and energetic and you love life and you have a little bit of a romantic in you, whether you’re man or woman, I think you would enjoy this play. It really shoots right at the heart especially for young people.”