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## Religion briefs

### Play focusing on Mideast makes regional debut at Stoneleaf

By Andre A. Rodriguez  
STAFF WRITER  
published: May 28, 2005 6:00 am

ASHEVILLE - "Via Dolorosa," a play by David Hare, presented by EbzB Productions and Deep Dish Theater Company, will be part of the Stoneleaf Theatre Festival 2005. Performances of "Via Dolorosa" will be held at 8 p.m. Monday and Thursday and at 4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday and at noon Friday at North Carolina Stage Company, 33 Haywood St. A final performance will be held at 4 p.m. June 4. The theater's entrance is on Walnut Street, next to the Rankin Avenue parking deck. Tickets range from \$18 to \$20.

This play, in its regional premiere, recounts the British playwright's travels and conversations with residents in Israel and Gaza, vividly evoking the powerful ideologies and passionate emotions of the region. Hare originally wrote "Via Dolorosa" to perform himself, which he did to acclaim in London and New York. Having been commissioned to write a play about Israel on the occasion of its 50th anniversary, he decided to document his visit to the country and the many people, Israeli and Palestinian, he encountered during his time there.

"This play is really unique," said Paul Frellick, artistic director of Deep Dish Theater. "On the surface it couldn't be simpler - one man recalling events and conversations from a trip abroad. But by the end of 90 minutes, the author has assembled an astonishingly complex picture of the forces at work in the Middle East and the multifaceted nature of the conflict there."

Call 257-4500 for information and tickets. Also visit the Stoneleaf Theatre Festival Web site at [www.stoneleaftheatrefestival.com](http://www.stoneleaftheatrefestival.com).

#### Choirs to perform together

ASHEVILLE - The combined choirs of Groce United Methodist Church and the Parish of St. Eugene's Catholic Church will perform a concert at 4 p.m. Sunday at Groce United Methodist Church, 954 Tunnel Road. Music to be featured includes American sacred music heritage, Shaker songs, spirituals, hymns and more.

The combined choir is preparing for a concert tour in Ireland during June. Groce choir is directed by Steve Cooper and St. Eugene's is directed by Chuck Taft. Admission is free; an offering will be received.

#### Learn communication skills

ASHEVILLE - Dielle Ciesco, an Asheville personal development coach, will offer the workshop "Impeccably Speaking..." from 6 to 8:30 p.m. June 15 and 29 at Holy



photo: SPECIAL TO THE CITIZEN-TIMES  
David zum Brunnen will perform David Hare's "Via Dolorosa" at North Carolina Stage Company during the Stoneleaf Theatre Festival 2005.

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Ground, 18 Orange St. Registration is \$40.

Ciesco developed this workshop out of her experiences with sacred sound, Toltec mythology and coaching. "We so readily take our abilities of speech for granted saying things we don't mean, belittling ourselves and others, and creating chaos instead of harmony," she said. "This workshop is designed to awaken participants to the powerful energy of our words and their potential to change our experiences."

Participants will learn to use their attention and awareness to improve their ability to communicate and undo damage from careless speech. They will engage in impeccable speech through word exercises and practices that build awareness of limiting beliefs and create a vocal mission statement to guide them into their integrity and increase their ability to communicate cleanly.

Ciesco is a personal development coach, teacher, and performer as well as a continuing student of sacred sound and Toltec shamanism in the lineage of Don Miguel Ruiz. She applies her knowledge from various disciplines in the role of the muse to create powerful experiences for those seeking greater freedom. She can be reached at 298-9671 or [www.livebyheart.com](http://www.livebyheart.com).

**Zen monk with Asheville roots to lead weekend retreat**

ASHEVILLE - Daigaku David Rummè, an American Soto Zen monk, who for more than 25 years was a resident of Hossinji monastery in Obama, Japan, will be in town June 18 and 19 to lead a meditation retreat at the Zen Center of Asheville.

Rummè's brother, Chris Rummè, a master potter, and a 30-year member of the Southern Highland Craft Guild, is founder and owner of Bee Branch Pottery in Asheville. Rummè's mother, Sylvia Robin, has also lived in Asheville for the last 20 years.

"Zen is a tradition that is transmitted from teacher to student 'outside the scriptures' through direct experiential connection. The importance of an authentically trained teacher is paramount and so the chance to spend a retreat with Daigaku is an exciting opportunity for us," said Randal Pride, one of the temple administrators of the Zen Center of Asheville.

The Zen Center of Asheville is at 191 Murdock St. The cost for the two days is \$25, which includes breakfast and lunch both days.

Spaces are available and anyone with an interest in meditation is welcome.

Call 253-2314 or e-mail [info@zcasheville.org](mailto:info@zcasheville.org) for more information.

**More than 200 attend WMIT pastors' event**

ASHEVILLE - Radio station 106.9 the Light WMIT cosponsored a one-day pastors' event at the Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove on May 19. More than 200 people were present for this daylong event.

The event's topic was "A Leader's Journey" and featured speakers Drs. Larry Crabb and Gordon MacDonald. The speakers provided insights, encouragement and practical examples on developing personal disciplines that nurtures one's personal life while developing a ministry.

"It is always exciting when pastors come together, taking time from their busy schedules, to learn from others and to hear the insights these two experienced leaders have to offer," said the Rev. Tom Atema, WMIT's executive director. "It is my prayer that the day was the fresh start that many of these pastors needed to be all they can be for Christ. All we want to do is to partner with these pastors and to help them on this wonderful journey God has called us to run."

Founded by Billy Graham in 1962, listener-supported WMIT broadcasts to parts of seven states from Black Mountain and around the world at [www.wmit.org](http://www.wmit.org). For more details, call general manager Jim Kirkland at 669-8477.

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