



# CAPE COD TIMES

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## Skilled acting pair enlivens 'Lettice and Lovage'

By JOHANNA CROSBY  
STAFF WRITER

ORLEANS – An unlikely friendship between two British spinsters generates steady laughs in Peter Shaffer's comedy, "Lettice and Lovage."

Guided by the sharp comic timing of director Joanna Weir-Ouston, Stages Theatre Company

has a winner on its hands. Shaffer's riotous script and a tour de force performance by

Sister Danielle Dwyer provide a workout for your funny bone.

A skilled comic actress, Dwyer is onstage in almost every scene and handles a mountain of dialogue with aplomb. She gives a larger-than-life portrayal of the ebullient Miss Lettice Douffet, a frustrated actress and disgruntled tour guide in one of England's less interesting grand homes.

Lettice, whose mission is to "enlarge! enliven! enlighten," embellishes history to make it more fascinating. Bored by the dull history of Fustian House, she spins fantastic stories. She's popular with the public (her tip bowl is filled to the rim). Lettice's gig is up, however, when her supervisor, Charlotte Schoen of the Preservation Trust, takes one of her tours. A

### On Stage

■ **What:** "Lettice and Lovage"

■ **Written by:** Peter Shaffer

■ **Directed by:** Joanna Weir-Ouston

■ **Presented by:** Stages Theatre Company

■ **When:** 7:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday

■ **Where:** Community of Jesus, Rock Harbor, Orleans

■ **Tickets:** \$30, \$25 for seniors, 18 and under free

■ **Information:** 508-240-2400

stickler for the unadulterated truth, Schoen is scandalized by Lettice's inaccurate tales.

Total opposites, the two women clash. Lettice is the ultimate drama queen and a compulsive storyteller. Schoen is an uptight matron and narrow-minded history buff. But they share a common bond – a love of history and beauty – and forge an unusual friendship. An interesting aspect of the relationship is how Lettice rubs off on Schoen and helps her crack out of her defensive shell.

Leigh Chalmers does a superb job as the serious-minded Schoen, an equal match for Lettice. The funniest scenes occur when sparks fly between the two women. But both adept actresses effectively depict their characters' vulnerabilities.

Michelle Rich is delightful as Schoen's meek assistant, Miss Frammer. David Haig delivers an amusing, low key performance as Lettice's exasperated lawyer, Mr. Bardolph. His reactions to the wacky goings-on are very funny.

### Theater REVIEW