

entertainment news

Arts & Culture

YOUR TICKET TO THE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT

ENTERTAINMENT IN THE VILLAGES

The Studio's 'Ada & The Engine' circles past, future. The show will run until May 8 at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

By **LIZ COUGHLIN**
Daily Sun Staff Writer

At The Sharon, you might find yourself somewhere in the space between 1843 and the future, between obligations and ambitions, and between dreams and reality.

The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol created that space with its production of "Ada & The Engine," which recently

opened and will run until May 8 at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

The story's "Ada" is Ada Lovelace, daughter of the poet Lord Byron and the precocious mathematician who would become "the first computer programmer."

On her entrance, we find Lovelace reciting one of her late father's poems, "She Walks in Beauty," which she must quickly hide from her mother.

On top of her curiosity

TONIGHT AT SPANISH SPRINGS

Uncle Bob's Rock Shop

Enjoy hits from the '70s and '80s.

TONIGHT AT LAKE SUMTER

Never Never Band

This high-energy variety dance and rock band covers all genres.

TONIGHT AT BROWNWOOD

Latin Ambition

Band combines American dance and Latin dance music.



27 WYETH PAINTINGS DONATED TO MAINE ART MUSEUM

Twenty-seven paintings by three generations of Wyeths have been donated to Maine's Farnsworth Art Museum, thanks to the late Betsy Wyeth. The museum, which plans to display the paintings in a major exhibition beginning May 15, did not disclose the value of the gifts, the Portland Press Herald reported Thursday. (AP)

about him, Lovelace must suppress other sides of herself, namely, her mathematical ambition, from her mother, a stern woman.

Though Lady Byron raised her daughter with the best possible education, she would much rather see Lovelace marry a man of good standing than pursue that ambition.

Still, Lovelace plays a key role in helping her mentor Charles Babbage see the potential in the Analytical Engine, the earliest concept for a programmable computer.

The Set Tells The Story

"A bit of management could take you from zero to one — the entire universe is in that difference," Lovelace told him, a recurring motif and a nod to Lovelace's proposed formula that would enable the Engine to calculate Bernoulli numbers.

The events unfolded at the Byron household, depicted onstage as a large concave structure with two columns on either side apropos of Victorian high society.

Central to the play is a



Submitted photo

"Ada & The Engine" recently opened and will run until May 8 at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

stage-sized turntable, sometimes depicting the passage of time, creating seamless transitions between scenes and always keeping the momentum going while

characters read aloud letter correspondences between them.

"The rotating stage added to the continuity, and you could get more out of it," said

Mark Reiter, of the Village of Woodbury.

A mixture of violin, harpsichord and, occasionally, synthesizer music bridged the gap between the bygone era and the future, perhaps foreshadowing Lovelace's and Babbage's future impact on the world.

Good Audience Reception

Passions built between the two over their shared goal.

"I knew about Babbage, and it brought the whole thing to life," said Terry Vanderloop, of the Village of Collier at Antrim Dells.

"They conveyed the message of a forbidden love extremely well," Beth Vanderloop added.

Tickets for "Ada & The Engine" are available online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

Online viewing options are also available at thesharonstudio.com.

Staff writer Liz Coughlin can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5304, or liz.coughlin@thevillagesmedia.com.