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**Out in the crowd: Gwinnettians take stage in 'The Three Musketeers'**

**By Deanna Allen  
Staff Writer**

It's all for one and one for all in New Dawn Theater Company's latest production, "The Three Musketeers."

A trio of Gwinnett residents will take the stage in Duluth as Athos, Porthos and Aramis.

Sean Anderson, 24, will wield Athos' sword, as Vant Walker, 24, portrays the priestly Aramis. The two Lawrenceville residents will join Mike Yow, 45, of Buford, as he plays the comical Musketeer Porthos.

In his first production with Duluth's New Dawn Theater, 17-year-old Greg Carey of Lawrenceville will take up his father's sword as aspiring Musketeer D'Artagnan, a young, slightly over-eager young man who travels to Paris with his sister and engages the three Musketeers, as well as the dangerous and powerful king's adviser, Cardinal Richelieu.

"From the minute the curtain goes up, so to speak, to the very end, it's an adventure," director Sherry Ingbritsen said. "There's something constantly going on. There's good versus evil, there's family, there's first-time meeting, there's misunderstanding, there's a little bit of fun, some rivalries, a little bit of everything."

Auditions for the production were held in early May and the cast of about 24 members began rehearsing in early June. "The Three Musketeers" opened Thursday.

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**Staff Photo: Deanna Allen**  
King Louis XIII of France, played by Dennis Wolk, is interrupted by Cardinal Richelieu, played by John McFarland, as he attempts to teach his queen, Anne of Austria (Jocelyn McElroy), the game of chess in a scene in New Dawn Theater's production of "The Three Musketeers."



"This is a show that I've been wanting to do for a long time," said Ingbritsen, who is executive director of New Dawn Theater. "I like to do shows that are challenging, that are different, that don't get done very often."

Ingbritsen said this particular show has been rather challenging.

"This show has definitely been a challenge in many aspects," she said, "between the costumes to the real swords to the scenery, which we started building and then we had to make changes."

Sword fighting is a large part of the action throughout the play as the Musketeers and D'Artagnan engage Cardinal Richelieu's guards on behalf of the king of France.

"We expect to hear some 'oohs' and 'ahhs' from the audience," Ingbritsen said, "(and see) the people sitting in the front kind of leaning back as the fighting gets close to them."

As sword fighting is a prominent part of the play, fight choreography was a big part of the actors' preparation.

"I had never put a sword in my hand before rehearsing for this show in any sort of serious attempt at good-looking fights," Anderson said. "That was really challenging for me, getting the choreography down, because any of my previous experience with swords was far less detailed.

"I wasn't playing the best swordsman in France at the time and so I didn't have to be good," he added.

Gwinnett residents can join Anderson, Walker and Yow as they fight Cardinal Richelieu's guards as the Three Musketeers each Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Aug. 2.

"(The show is) a lot of fun to be in," Anderson said, "and I think it will be just as much fun to watch."

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