Double Edge Theatre's 'Springfield Spectacle' brings unique performance to Forest Park (Photos)

By Chris Marion
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SPRINGFIELD – The Double Edge Theatre's "Springfield Spectacle" was indeed a spectacle. Beginning at the Carriage House at the Barney Estate the audience was led through various sets and scenes within the park to the finale at the amphitheater.

Although they were standing in the city, the audience, estimated to be nearly three hundred, were transported to a foreign land rich in culture and captivating music.

Prior to the performance local businessman Evan Plotkin, president and founder of City Mosaic, and Mayor Domenic Sarno spoke to the crowd, mentioning the many sponsors who made the event possible. Sarno made special mention of Plotkin, who, for years, has been a very visible champion of the Springfield arts scene.

"I'd like to thank Evan Plotkin and our generous benefactors, including MassMutual, for their continued belief and investment in the arts and cultural initiatives happening throughout our city," Sarno said. "I deeply appreciate how Double Edge Theatre incorporated our Conservatory of the Arts students – you could see how excited they were in their eyes. This is like a master's course in performance arts for them."

The large-scale outdoor performance featured the Double Edge Ensemble, renowned Argentine guest musicians Manuel Uriona (Bersuit Vergarabat) and Micaela Farias Gomez (Santadiabla) as well as youth performers from Springfield Conservatory of the Arts Public School and students and teachers from Springfield's Community Music School.

The story follows a traveler who returns to his hometown after many years. Memories of his past and stories about the town's colorful inhabitants evoke reflections about an increasingly universal theme: how progress can displace people. Inspired by Alejandro Jodorowski and other Latin American writers, the show is imbued with the excitement of a Latin American carnival, and draws upon memory, culture, and song.

The event was presented by City Mosaic. Admission was free, thanks in large part to MassMutual, as well as, The Davis Foundation, Taylor Street Dental, C & S Wholesale Grocers, NAI Plotkin, The Springfield Central Cultural District, Tower Square, Metro Care of Springfield, and Inspired Marketing. Additional support for the production was provided by the City of Springfield and the Expeditions Program of the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA).

Photos from Double Edge Theatre’s The Springfield Spectacle in Forest Park in Springfield on September 23, 2016 (Chris Marion/ The Republican)