

WHAT'S UP?

By JACQUELINE BURT WANG

TODAY



BARD IN BRIEF: Call it Shakespeare for shorties. "Daydream" is a condensed version of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," in which construction workers and other city folk tangle with Shakespeare's fairies. Part of PLG Arts' Free Theater for Children of All Ages, it's performed in Prospect Park's Imagination Playground, where shows end with the chance to splash around under the sprinklers. Bring your bathing suits! 11 a.m. today; 3 p.m. tomorrow; weekends through July 20, free. Ocean Avenue between Lincoln Road and Parkside Avenue, Brooklyn; (718) 393-7733

BLAME IT ON RIO: Can't make it to Brazil? Head to Bryant Park for this week's Word for Word Kids installment, "Brazilian Carnival." After learning the traditional carnival dance, kids assemble their own rainsticks

and settle in for a south-of-the-border story session. Noon to 1 p.m., free. Bryant Park Reading Room, off 42nd Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues; (212) 768-4242.

TOMORROW

WE LOVE LUCY: Forget video games and iPods — our ancient human ancestors didn't even have forks and knives. Learn more at "Life With Lucy," an interactive show starring a 3-million-year-old female skeleton. The leading lady can't talk, but AMNH's resident mad scientist, Dr. Nebula, will explain how Lucy and her kin got along in the days before electricity or utensils. Ages 4 and up. 2 to 3 p.m., \$8 for kids, \$10 for adults (plus pay-what-you-will museum admission). The American Museum of Natural History, Kaufmann Theater, 79th Street and Central Park West; (212) 769-5100.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Think beyond carrot sticks and turkey on whole grain. In her cookbook "Everybody Eats Lunch," Cricket Azima tells how to make Mexican cactus salad, South African pumpkin fritters and Japanese rice balls. She'll teach kids ages 5 and up how to make them all at the Children's Museum of Manhattan's "Let's Cook" series. 3 and 4 p.m. (sign up at least an hour ahead), free with admission (\$9). 212 W. 83rd St., between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue; (212) 721-1223.

