

after hours
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Jean Rahner scrubs up shipwrecked sailor (husband Tom Rahner)



Chief Oriba presents Notina to Pedro Menendez de Aviles

Photos by Frank Russell



Rion Carswell as the Cardinal



Oriba leaps towards Spanish soldiers



Menendez commissioned to make the journey to Florida

The "Cross and Sword" comes to St. Augustine Friday when a troupe of professional and amateur actors and actresses recreate the founding of St. Augustine in a display of pageantry.

From the formal courts of Prince Phillip II comes the intrepid commander Pedro Menendez de Aviles to the shores of Florida to establish a new colony. Menendez is portrayed by Paul Bahan, his friend Capt. Jose Alvarez by Brad Bonnell, and the Cardinal by Rion Carswell.

There are tender moments as Oriba, the Indian chief, presents young Notina, the Indian maiden, to Menendez as Captain Alvarez and Stufa, the Indian witch doctor, look on. Playing the different parts are Wade Popwell as Oriba, Linda Hall as Notina, and Dick Tracy as Stufa.

In a lighter vein, Basilio, played by Tom Rahner, who has been director of "Cross and Sword" since the idea was conceived in 1960, is cast as the shipwrecked sailor whose wife he left behind, played by his real wife, Jean Rahner. She catches him and gives him a good scrubbing to make him more "socially acceptable."

The play was written by Paul Green and presented officially in 1965. It is enacted in a natural amphitheatre, with remarkably authentic props to supplement the natural setting. The "Cross and Sword," which runs through Sept. 3, will be presented each evening except Sunday, at 8:30.