



Friday, January 31, 2003

'Zastrozzi' presented at Oakland

Oakland University's **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** is presenting a unique theatrical production, "Zastrozzi," by George F. Walker at Varner Studio Theatre Feb. 6-15.

OU faculty member John Manfredi is the director and fight choreographer of the production, which is called "a morality play of revenge" and an "outrageous melodrama" by the Playwrights Canada Press.

The title character, Zastrozzi, is the unapologetic "master criminal of Europe," who seeks revenge on a fuzzy-minded painter named Verezzi. In the play, traditional notions of heroes, heroines, villains and morality fall away. A key dramatic element is sword fighting, which culminates in a stunning climax. Please note that "Zastrozzi" contains adult material for mature audiences only.

Walker, a Toronto-born playwright, is the acclaimed author of "Love and Anger," "Nothing Sacred," "Better Living," "Criminals in Love" and "The Art of War" among others. He is the recipient of the Governor-General's, the Dora Mavor Moore and Floyd S. Chalmers awards for his work.

The Oakland University cast includes Patrick Butcher (Rochester), Phillip Harmer (Walled Lake), Lee Huff (Waterford) as Zastrozzi, Kelly Plucinski (Elk Rapids), Courtney Presley (Oxford) and Drew Starr (Birmingham).

Dates and times are as follows: Feb. 6, 13, 14 and 15 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 8 and 9 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for the general public and \$5 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the Varner Box Office at (248) 370-3013, all Ticketmaster outlets at (248) 645-6666, on the **Ticketmaster** Web site, or at the door one hour before each performance. Due to limited seating, advance reservations are recommended.

SUMMARY

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