



Friday, August 29, 2003

## MTD announces plays for 2003-04 season

Oakland University's **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** invites you to enjoy an entire academic year's worth of high-quality, high-energy theatre performances that are both affordable and enriching for arts enthusiasts of all ages.

Each year, OU students and faculty perform a wide spectrum of works, ranging from full-scale theatrical productions to intimate stage direction, which entertain thousands of students and community members.

All performances are given in Varner Studio Theatre, with the exception of the student-directed production title, which will be given in the Varner Lab Theatre. Both venues are located in Varner Hall on the university's main campus.

Tickets for most performances range between \$6 and \$12 and may be reserved via the Varner Hall Box Office by calling (248) 370-3013. The box office hours is open September through April, Tuesday through Friday, noon to 3 p.m. You also can purchase tickets through the **Ticketmaster** Web site or by calling (248) 645-6666. Discounts are available for OU employees, seniors and groups of 20 or more.

For more information on individual performances, visit the **Department of Music, Theatre and Dance** Web site or contact (248) 370-3013 or [mtd@oakland.edu](mailto:mtd@oakland.edu).

### 2003-2004 PERFORMANCES

#### **"Winners" Sept. 6-7**

The 2003-04 season opens Saturday, Sept. 6, with this one-act play from Brian Friel's "Lovers." The play is a fund-raiser to help support a trip for theatre majors to the regional American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) in January. Students Catherine Lutz of Howell and Blair Mellow of Huntington Woods will play two 17-year-old Irish lovers. Lutz was a finalist at last year's ACTF for her performance of a scene from this play. Associate Professors of Theatre Michael Gillespie and Karen Sheridan complete the cast.

#### **"Great Expectations" Oct. 9-19**

This play, adapted by Barbara Field from the Charles Dickens novel, follows Pip from his humble beginnings through his encounters with an escaped convict, the bizarre Miss Havisham and the haughty Estella; and on to London where his "expectations" to become a gentleman are made known.

#### **"Starting Here, Starting Now" Nov. 6-16**

The excitement of young love and the confusion of growing up are explored in this revue from Richard Maltby Jr. and David Shire, one of the most respected teams in the contemporary musical theatre. This bold, extroverted journey takes a winsome cast through the maze of modern relationships with its heart firmly on its sleeve. The play will be performed by the Meadow Brook Estate, a popular student show ensemble that performs on and off campus at a variety of venues and events.

#### **"Love Letters" Jan. 9-11**

Tracing the lifelong correspondence of the staid, dutiful lawyer Andrew Makepeace Ladd III and the lively, unstable artist Melissa Garner, the story of their bittersweet relationship gradually unfolds from what is written – and what is left unsaid – in their letters. This play by A.R. Gurney will be performed by Associate Professor of Theatre Karen Sheridan, Special Instructor of Theatre Thomas Suda and guest artists.

#### **"Miss Firecracker Contest" Feb. 5-15**

In this play by Beth Henley, Carnelle is rehearsing for the Miss Firecracker contest, hoping that a victory will salvage her tarnished reputation and allow her to leave town in a blaze of glory. The arrival of her cousin Elain (a former winner) and Elain's brother Delmount (recently released from an institution) complicates matters. However, with the help of other cheerfully nutty characters, Carnelle perseveres.

#### **"Into the Woods" March 18-28**

The baker and his wife learn the witch next door has cursed them with childlessness. They embark on a quest for the special objects required to break the spell and meet Cinderella, Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Jack (and the beanstalk) and others along the way. This play is by Stephen Sondheim, based on the book by James Lapine.

**Student-directed production title (TBD), April 15-17**

This performance will be produced entirely by OU's MTD students and given in the Varner Lab Theatre.

**“Serengeti Tales” May 24-June 6**

This original production for children based on music and folk tales from Africa takes us on an amazing journey, weaving African folk tales with music and song. Performances will feature OU's own African Drum Ensemble.

**SUMMARY**

OU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance is offering an entire academic year's worth of high-quality, high-energy theatre performances that are both affordable and enriching for arts enthusiasts of all ages. Each year, OU students and faculty perform a wide spectrum of works, ranging from full-scale theatrical productions to intimate stage direction, which entertain thousands of students and community members.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Friday, August 29, 2003

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Article Start Date: Monday, September 29, 2003