



Tuesday, October 15, 2002

OU theatre season begins with 'Picnic'

Oakland University's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance kicks off its 2002 - 2003 theatre season with a presentation of William Inge's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "Picnic." The play, which is directed by OU Associate Professor Karen Sheridan, opens Oct. 17 and runs through Oct. 27 at Varner Studio Theatre in Varner Hall.

"Picnic" debuted on Broadway in 1953 with a cast that included a young Paul Newman. The 1955 film starred William Holden, who, by taking his shirt off, made a nation of women swoon. The play is set in a small Kansas town on the occasion of the annual Labor Day picnic. A drifter blows into town to visit an old fraternity buddy and ends up catching the eye of a few women in town, including his buddy's girlfriend.

The Oakland University cast includes Joe Baldiga (Clarkston), Jenny Day (New Baltimore), Megan Mullinger (Grosse Pointe), Steve O'Brien (Holly), Joi Olden (Oak Park), Courtney Presley (Oxford), Vanessa Sawson (Royal Oak), Andrea Scobie (Royal Oak), Aricka Schuck (Rochester Hills), Drew Starr (Birmingham) and Joel Trumble (Lake Orion).

Students on the artistic staff are Donna Buckley (Swartz Creek), costume designer; Ruth Dudley (East Lansing), set designer; Lee Huff (Waterford), fight choreographer; Jaime Leonardi, sound designer; Josh Polley (Clarkston), lighting designer; and Jessica Wolfe (Royal Oak), stage manager.

Dates and times are as follows: Oct. 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26 at 8 p.m.; Oct. 20 and 27 at 2 p.m.; and Oct. 22 and 23 at 10 a.m. The Oct. 27 performance will be interpreted for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Tickets are \$10 for the general public and \$5 for students, except for the 10 a.m. matinees, which are \$5 for all seats. Tickets are available at the Varner Box Office at (248) 370-3013, all **Ticketmaster** outlets at (248) 645-6666, or at the door one hour before each performance.

SUMMARY

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