

Backstage Pass

April 2009

Minnesota State Mankato
Theatre
& Dance

Come see our Spring Collection

This year's Spring Dance Collection Concert includes pieces choreographed by faculty Julie Kerr-Berry, Daniel Stark and Paul Finocchiaro; two Andreas Guest Artists, Alan Sener and Gabe Masson; and three students, Staci Lipps, Stephanie Narlock and Aly Townsend. It also includes nearly 50 dancers from the Department of Theatre & Dance in styles ranging from tap to modern.

Performances are 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, April 30 and May 1, with a 1 p.m. matinee on Saturday, May 2, in the Ted Paul Theatre. Individual tickets are \$9 regular, \$8 for senior citizens, youth 16 and under and groups of 15 or more, \$7 for current Minnesota State students. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Theatre & Dance Box Office at 507-389-6661 4-6 p.m., Monday-Friday, or by visiting our MSUTheatre.com.

Sener restages a piece called "White Trash," in which he will perform along with faculty member Stark. They are joined by two student dancers who endured multiple call backs to win the coveted roles. Note: This piece includes subject matter that may be offensive to some people. It will be presented right before intermission for anyone who wishes use viewer discretion.

Lipps and Narlock, graduating seniors who have had pieces performed before, will present "Painting a Memory" and "Plastic People," respectively. Townsend, also a senior, will present "Sanctified Memory."



Photos courtesy of John Cross and The Mankato Free Press.



Something for everyone

Above: Choreographer Daniel Stark gives his dancers some instruction before rehearsal of "Meaningless Variations on no Particular Theme."

Kaitlin Johnson (left) takes her turn center stage in Daniel Stark's "Meaningless Variations on no Particular Theme."

(Note: For layout purposes, this image was flipped).

Minnesota State Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance

Here's what's coming up at Theatre & Dance



Season subscriptions are now on sale for our 43rd annual Highland Summer Theatre. They are available online at MSUTheatre.com (then follow the links); if you'd like a paper brochure mailed to you, please let us know at theatre-arts@mnsu.edu or by calling our main office at 507-389-2118 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Subscriptions are \$60 (plus processing fee).

Individual tickets for ALL shows will be available for purchase beginning May 18. Again, they'll be available at MSUTheatre.com or by calling the Theatre & Dance Box Office at 507-389-6661 between 4 and 6 p.m., Monday-Friday. Ticket prices are the same as for the Mainstage Season; all performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Musicals are in the Ted Paul Theatre and non-musicals in the Andreas Theatre.

We'd like to thank our summertime sponsors: Hale Associates for *Deathtrap*, the Minnesota State Mankato TRIO Programs for *Plaza Suite* and Eide Bailly, Orthopaedic & Fracture Clinic and Kearney Foundation for *Damn Yankees*.

What do we have planned for next year's seasons?

Yes, we have selected the shows we'll presenting for you during the 2009-2010 seasons. This is our crazy, busy time of the year ... but then when isn't it? ... so we haven't gotten the show information posted online yet. But rest assured it will be there soon.

In the meantime, here's a quick rundown:

The Mainstage opens in October with the musical *Into the Woods* for two weekends in the Ted Paul Theatre, Oct. 1-4 & 8-11. One change you'll notice right away is that we have eliminated ALL Sunday evening performances and replaced them with Saturday matinee performances. We've noticed that Sunday nights are tough for you, so we're trying something new!

Second on the Mainstage, taking to the Andreas Theatre Oct. 15-18 & 21-25, is the classic *Twelve Angry Men*. We'll make sure to turn up the suspense on this one. Not only are we adding Saturday matinees and eliminating Sunday evenings, but we're also opening on a Thursday the first weekend and a Wednesday for the second weekend.

Finishing out the first half of the Mainstage Season will be the return of Paul J. Hustoles's adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*. We'll extend the run for this one,

offering it Nov. 12-15, 19-22 and 28-29 (Thanksgiving weekend). What a great lead in to the holiday season!

In January, we'll offer two weekends of William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* in the Andreas Theatre. Performances are Jan. 28-31 & Feb. 3-7.

You may not recognize the title of our fifth Mainstage show, but it doesn't mean you aren't familiar with it. *On the Razzle*, Feb. 18-21 & 25-28 in the Ted Paul Theatre, is the story upon which Oscar Wilde's *The Matchmaker* was based, and *The Matchmaker* became the musical *Hello, Dolly!* But we'll take you back to the very beginning to see how it all started!

Closing the Mainstage Season, and continuing our numbers theme, will be the hit musical *42nd Street*. It will take the Ted Paul Theatre stage April 8-11 & 15-18.

In addition to the two **Dance Concerts**, we'll bring you four shows in our Studio Season: *One Flea Spare* Sept. 17-20, *Rocky Horror Show* Dec. 3-5 (with mid-night matinees), *Beauty Queen of Lenane* on March 25-28 and the world premiere *Virgin Territory* April 22-25, all in the Andreas Theatre.

We're excited with the mix of shows on tap for next season and we hope you'll come along for the ride.