

Backstage Pass

August 2009



Season brochures coming soon

INTO THE WOODS

TWELVE ANGRY MEN

A Christmas Carol

Twelfth Night

On the Razzle

42nd Street

One Flea Spare

ROCKY HORROR SHOW

BEAUTY QUEEN OF LENANE

Virgin Territory

Dance Concerts

Get ready: Season ticket brochures will be mailed the week of Aug. 10.

With the elimination of Sunday evening performances, we add more matinee opportunities on Saturday for those who either dislike driving at night or who have a distance to travel. Changes in audience trends over the last few years have urged us to make this change. This performance change also applies to our four-performance Studio shows, which now will be presented Wednesday-Saturday nights.

For the first time, the first week-end in December will see productions simultaneously presented in both theatres. In the Andreas Theatre, *Rocky Horror Show*, which will feature midnight matinees on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4 and 5, will run opposite our Fall Dance Concert in the Ted Paul Theatre for a couple of performances on those Friday and Saturday evenings. That will be fun!!

This season we are proud to present two shows on the Mainstage that we've never presented before. Such is the case with *Twelve Angry Men*, a title best known for the movie starring Henry Fonda, and *On the Razzle*, a story that, a couple of generations down the road, became the musical *Hello, Dolly!* There's no singing in this one—in fact, there's not even a Dolly!—but there is our Master of Fine Arts alum Tom Woldt who directs for Paul J. Hustoles, who will be on sabbatical in the spring. Tom last returned in Highland Summer Theatre 2007 to direct *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*.

Finally, we break our own departmental rule by restaging the Hustoles adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* before 10 years have passed. It just seemed appropriate to bring back this seasonal favorite, first presented in 2002, for a return engagement in November. Look for Thanksgiving weekend shows!

CU @ the Theatre

With six shows presented during each 15-week semester of the school year, we've got a new show opening every 2-1/2 weeks. That means every 18 days or so, "Curtains Up!"

In our selection process, we work to balance old with new, traditional with contemporary, large

with small casts, comedy with drama and even males with females. We love the creative challenge.

You can help us by completing the patron survey that will be in every third program for *Into the Woods* this fall. In addition, we'll be sending electronic surveys during October.



Minnesota State Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance

Addition of matinees, elimination of Sunday nights alters show schedule

Here is a sneak peek at the performance schedule for the upcoming season. In addition to the weekend changes, please note that Mainstage shows in the Andreas Theatre will open on Thursday, but the second weekend will include a Wednesday night performance.

Non-musicals in the Ted Paul Theatre—this year that’s *On the Razzle* only—will have a Saturday matinee on the first weekend but not on the second.

Finally, Studio shows now run Wednesday through Saturday night, reflecting our elimination of Sunday night performances. Our hope is that students, who make up the majority of our Studio audience, will appreciate another weeknight opportunity. We also expect they will be the primary audience for the midnight matinee performances of *Rocky Horror Show* in December.

MAINSTAGE SEASON		There are no Sunday evening performances						
		Evening performances at 7:30 p.m. All matinees at 2:00 p.m.						
		Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat. Mat.	Sat. Eve.	Sun. Mat.	
Into the Woods	Oct.		1	2	3	3	4	
Twelve Angry Men	Oct.		8	9	10	10	11	
A Christmas Carol	Nov.	21	22	23	24	24	25	
			19	20	21	21	22	
						28	29	
Twelfth Night	Jan./Feb.		28	29	30	30	31	
On the Razzle	Feb.	3	4	5	6	6	7	
42nd Street	April		18	19	20	20	21	
			25	26		27	28	
			8	9	10	10	11	
			15	16	17	17	18	

Studio Shows and Dance Concerts		All are 7:30 p.m. curtain except matinees, as noted					
		Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.		
One Flea Spare	Sept.	16	17	18	19		
Rocky Horror Show	Dec.	2	3	4	5		
Midnight matinees				4	5		
U-Rep Fall Concert	Dec.			4	5		
2 p.m. matinee					5		
Beauty Queen...	Mar.	24	25	26	27		
Virgin Territory	April	21	22	23	24		
Spring Concert	Apr/May		29	30			
2 p.m. matinee					1		

We Appreciate Friends and ALL who support us

Everyone who receives our season ticket brochure understands, we hope, what YOU get in exchange for becoming a Friend of the Theatre (an added donation of \$100 or more). You get priority processing of your season ticket order, the opportunity to buy additional tickets to Mainstage shows PLUS early purchases of Studio and Dance Concert tickets, and donor gifts that include our annual coffee mug, a calendar with gorgeous photos from the last year’s shows and a pen.

Now we’d like to tell you what WE—or, more appropriately, our students—get because of your donation.

As you’ve probably figured out, we believe in learning by doing. While a large part of that is what you see on stage, much of it happens in the shop and classroom. Your donations help us cover the costs of our MFA graduate assistants who

work on sets, costumes, lighting and sound design and construction, public relations and teach our Acting for Everyone classes.

At the undergraduate level, the money allows us to hire our students to do more work in the shops and other production areas. As you can imagine, finding a job in the community that can work around the ever-changing schedule of rehearsals and productions can be difficult, and this lets them gain additional experience in their chosen field of study and future employment.

Similarly, your donation allows us to award more than TWO DOZEN scholarships to our students each year to help them cover their school and living expenses. All of these recipients also have proven themselves in the classroom, and we want to reward them for being able to strike that balance in their lives.

Online Ticketing, Year 2

Thank you for your patience as we have maneuvered our way through the first year of offering online ticketing. According to survey results collected during *Damn Yankees*, many of you have found and used this service available at MSUTheatre.com.

We continue to work with our service provider in fine-tuning the process to make it easier to use and urge you to let us know about your experiences. We also encourage you to utilize this 24-hour-a-day alternative to buy tickets early for the performances that work best in your schedule. By adding it, we’re now able to make tickets to ALL PRODUCTIONS available beginning on Sept. 23. This includes our two Dance Concerts, which continue to get crowds of ticket buyers showing up on show nights.

Minnesota State Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance

Consider seeing a Studio show or Dance Concert

Individual tickets available with your season ticket purchase

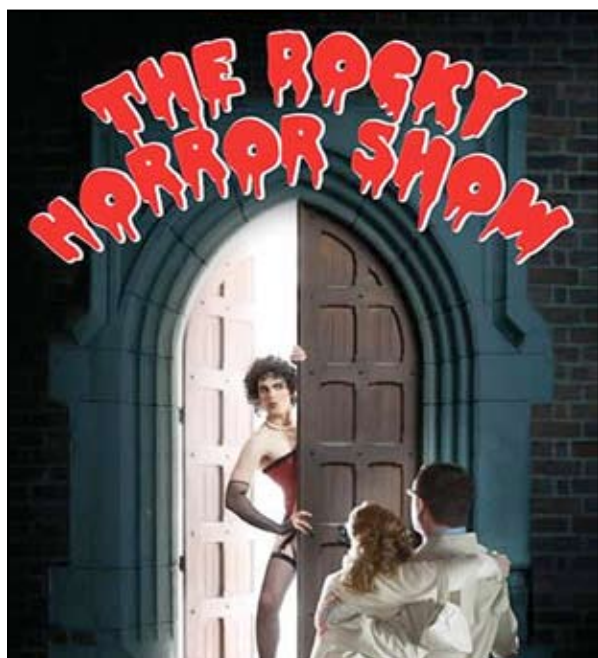
One Flea Spare

by Naomi Wallace,
directed by Heather Hamilton
Sept. 16-19, 2009

One Flea Spare takes place in the era of the Black Plague in 1665. The owners and only residents of a home are an upper class merchant and his wife, who are about to be released from a month-long quarantine period. Two unexpected and unwelcome visitors burst into their lives and prove to be volatile additions to a household already diseased with festering sores of anger and frustration, lust and pain.

Rocky Horror Show

Book, music and lyrics by
Richard O'Brien, directed by
Jerry Jay Cranford
Dec. 2-5, with midnight matinees



Most people don't realize that the cult "classic" film of 1975 actually started as a 1973 theatrical extravaganza. This deliberately kitschy rock 'n' roll sci fi gothic is more fun than ever as it follows the journey of two stranded innocents as they experience a night they will never, ever forget. Find out live what the "picture show" could only hint at.

Beauty Queen of Lenane

By Martin McDonagh,
directed by Megan Gredesky
March 24-27, 2010

Set in 1989 in the small village of Leenane in Connemara, Ireland, the play centers on the life of Maureen Folan, a 40-year-old maid who is the sole caregiver to her 70-year-old mother Mag. The Folan cottage is visited by

the brothers Ray and Pato Dooley. The glimmer of a romance sparks up, then sputters out between Maureen and Pato, with ultimately disastrous results.

Virgin Territory

Written and directed
by Nikki Swoboda
April 21-24, 2010

Virgin Territory is an original work being created through research, interviews and improvisation sessions by third-year MFA Directing candidate Nikki Swoboda. It explores the ancient Greek Iphengenia myth of virginity, sacrifice and freedom as it translates into contemporary society. Adult themes are present throughout as music and dance are used to express primal emotions. *Virgin Territory* is born of the creative process.

Dance Concerts

Dec. 4-5 and April 29, 30, May 1
in the Ted Paul Theatre

In the fall, the concert "bridges" dance with another discipline, such as live performance, to create a unique viewing experience. In the spring, witness the culmination of a year's worth of creative exploration that includes choreography by students, faculty and guest artists.

Tickets for Studio shows and Dance Concerts are \$9 regular, \$8 for senior citizens, youth and groups of 15 or more and \$7 for current Minnesota State students.