

# Theatre & Dance

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## MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

## Minnesota State students excel at Festival

It is with great pride that we report to you on our recent triumphs at the Region V Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival held Jan. 20-26 in Omaha, NE.

### In Acting

Junior BFA **Micah Kronlokken** was acclaimed the Region V Irene Ryan Winner (the last time we achieved this pinnacle was in 1997). This places him as one of the top 16 student actors IN THE COUNTRY! His partner, senior BFA **Katie Moeller**, was acclaimed Best Partner in the Final Round. First year MFA Acting major **Lolly Foy** broke to the Semi Finals (the top 36 out of over 400 eligible nominees).

### In Directing

Senior BFA **Heather Folsom** placed first in the SSDC (The Society Of Stage Directors and Choreographers) 10-minute scene directing competition. This places her as one of the top 8 student directors IN THE COUNTRY!

Micah, Katie and Heather have all been invited to participate in the National Festival this April at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

### In Design

• **Britt Katuin** (senior BFA) won



**Micah J. L. Kronlokken and his KCACTF partner Katie Moeller from the Studio production of *Dog Sees God*. In April, both will go with Heather Folsom to the National Festival in Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center.**

Honorable Mention (second place) in the Barbizon Costume Design competition for *Bus Stop*

- **Deb Lindell** (senior BFA) won 2nd place in the Regional Scene Design competition for *Dog Sees God*
- **Jeff Smith** (junior BS) won 2nd place in Poster Design for *Bus Stop*
- **Ben Inniger** (1st year MFA) won 2nd place for Sound Design for *Hurlyburly*
- And we captured **10 KCACTF Certificates of Commendation** for productions this year, including:

- **Angie Hesterman** (recent BFA graduate) for Stage Management for *Angels in America*
- **The entire shift crew** for excellence in shifting *Angels in America*
- **Mick Coughlan** (recent BFA graduate) for Stage Management for *Gypsy*
- **David McCarl** (faculty) for Costume Design for *Gypsy*
- **Allen Wright Shannon** (2nd year MFA) for Set Design for *Cats*
- **Steve Smith** (faculty) for Lighting Design for *Cats*
- **John Paul** (faculty) for Set Design for *Enchanted April*
- **David McCarl** (faculty) for Costume Design for *Enchanted April*
- **Doug Bennett** (2nd year MFA) for Set Design of *Bus Stop*
- **Britt Katuin** (senior BFA) for Costume Design for *Bus Stop*

### In Addition

- Both **Paul Finocchiaro** and **Paul J. Hustoles** served as Irene Ryan Preliminary Round Judges.
- Both **John Paul** and **Paul J. Hustoles** serve on the Regional Advisory Board. John Paul is the Vice Chair of Design and Technologies. Paul J. Hustoles is the Region V Registrar (for the tenth year in a row).
- **Finocchiaro, Paul** and **Smith** presented workshops at the festival, with more than 1,500 participants from more than 80 schools.

# Minnesota State Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance

## The story of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

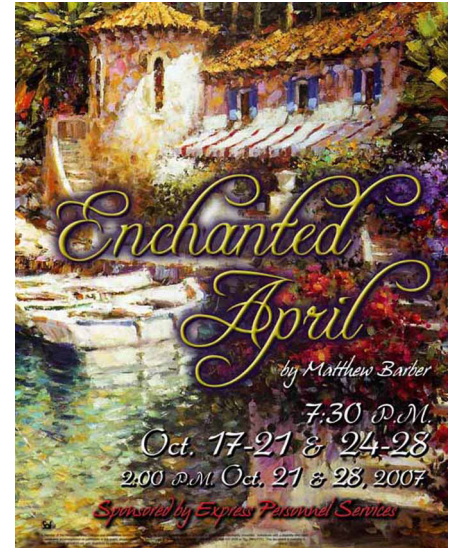
In preparing to direct *Hamlet*, director Paul J. Hustoles cut nearly half of the lines to bring it to a length more amenable to today's audiences. Here is a synopsis of the play that will be performed Feb. 21-24 & 28-March 2. Spoiler alert! Don't read if you want to be surprised!

*Hamlet* is the son of the late King Hamlet (of Denmark), who died two months before the start of the play. After King Hamlet's death, his brother, Claudius, becomes king, and marries King Hamlet's widow, Gertrude (Queen of Denmark). Young Hamlet fears that Claudius killed his own brother (Hamlet's father) to become king of Denmark, greatly angering Hamlet. Two officers, Marcellus and Barnardo, summon Hamlet's friend Horatio, and later Hamlet himself to see the late King Hamlet's ghost appear at midnight. The ghost tells Hamlet privately that Claudius had indeed murdered King Hamlet by pouring poison in his ear. Hamlet is further enraged and plots of how to revenge his father's death.

In his anger, Hamlet seems to act like a madman, prompting King Claudius, his wife Gertrude, and his advisor Polonius to send Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to spy on Hamlet and figure out why he is acting mad. Hamlet even treats Polonius' daughter Ophelia rudely, prompting Polonius to believe Hamlet is madly in love with her, though Claudius expects otherwise. Polonius, a man who talks too long-windedly, had allowed his son Laertes to go to France and had ordered Ophelia not to associate with Hamlet. Claudius, fearing Hamlet may try to kill him, sends Hamlet to England. Before leaving, however, Hamlet convinces an acting company to reenact King Hamlet's death before Claudius, in the hopes of causing Claudius to break down and admit to murdering King Hamlet. Though Claudius is enraged, he does not admit to murder. Hamlet's mother tries to reason with Hamlet after the play, while

Polonius spied on them from behind a curtain. Hamlet hears Polonius, and kills him through the curtain, thinking the person is Claudius. When finding out the truth, Hamlet regrets the death, yet Claudius still sends him to England, accompanied by Rosencrantz and Guildenstern with orders from Claudius that the English kill Hamlet as soon as her arrives.

After Hamlet leaves, Laertes returns from France, enraged over Polonius' death. Ophelia reacts to her father's death with utter madness and eventually falls in a stream and drowns, further angering Laertes. En route to England, Hamlet finds the orders and changes them to order Rosencrantz and Guildenstern killed, as does occur, though Hamlet is kidnapped by pirates one day later. The pirates return Hamlet to Claudius (for a ransom), and Claudius tries one last attempt to eliminate Hamlet: he arranges a sword duel between Laertes and Hamlet. The trick, however, is that the tip of Laertes' sword is poisoned. As a backup precaution, Claudius poisons the victory cup in case Hamlet wins. During the fight, the poisoned drink is offered to Hamlet, he declines, and instead his mother, Gertrude, drinks it (to the objection of Claudius). Laertes, losing to Hamlet, illegally scratches him with the poisoned sword to ensure Hamlet's death. Hamlet (unknowingly), then switches swords with Laertes, and cuts and poisons him. The queen dies, screaming that she has been poisoned and Laertes, dying, admits of Claudius' treachery. Weakening, Hamlet fatally stabs Claudius, Laertes dies, and Hamlet begins his death speech. Though Horatio wants to commit suicide out of sorrow, Hamlet entreats him to tell the story of King Hamlet's death and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern's deaths to all. Fortinbras, the prince of Norway, arrives from conquest of England, and Hamlet's last dying wish is that Fortinbras become the new King of Denmark, as happens.



## Thank you and goodbye

It is with great sadness that the Department of Theatre & Dance says goodbye to **Rick McCluhan**, owner of Express Personnel Services, who had generously sponsored two productions with us, *Arsenic and Old Lace* (2006-07) and *Enchanted April* (2007-08). Rick died suddenly Feb. 1, 2008, at his home. He was 50 years old. A great community supporter and participant in the political process, Rick's guest list for corporate sponsor performances ranged from local business people and lawyers to the Harry Meyer Center residents and staff.

The Department is pleased to present William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in celebration of the life of **Donabel C. Linney**. A professor of English at Minnesota State Mankato from 1965-1984, Donabel was—among many things—an avid theatre-goer. The student lounge and green room beneath the Andreas Theatre was made possible through a generous donation from Donabel. She passed away July 1, 2007, at the age of 82.

It is with great pride that we dedicate this production to her memory. We hope that we can match the zeal and vigor with which she would have taught it.

# Minnesota State Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance

## Nadine B. Andreas Guest Artists

The Department of Theatre & Dance, through the generosity of David and Lowell Andreas in honor of their wife and mother, will host the following Artists in Residence during spring semester 2008. Most will include a public master class or public performance.

For a complete list and photos, visit <http://www.mnsu.edu/theatre/about/andreasguests.html>

### Larry Yazzie (Native American)—World Dance class Feb. 5

Born on the Meskwaki Indian Settlement in central Iowa, Larry Yazzie began dancing at age 7. He was taught the traditions of the Meskwaki people, including the flamboyant and energetic fancy dance and the Northern Plains style of singing. A renowned fancy dancer who consistently takes top honors at American Indian powwows through the U.S. and Canada, he won the World Championship for the Northern Style Fancy Dance in 1995 and 2007.

He also serves as an Arena Director, Singing Judge and Head Man Dancer.

### Richard Raether Fight director for *Hamlet*, in residence Feb. 4-8

Richard Raether is one of only 10 Fight Masters certified by the Society of American Fight Directors, and has taught and choreographed stage combat professionally for the past 20 years, staging fights for ABC, CBS and numerous theatres across the U.S.

These theatres include the Guthrie Theater, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Chicago Shakespeare, American Players Theatre, the Roundabout Theatre and the Ensemble Studio Theatre.



## Irene Ryan nominees

Here are more of our Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship nominations. For a complete list and more photos, check out our web site at <http://www.mnsu.edu/theatre/academic/current/kcactf.html>. From this page, link to a listing of all nominees since 1994.



**Top: Jared Oxborough for *Cats* (Mollie Fischer was nominated for the title role in *Gypsy*.)**

**Center: Micah Kronloken (third from right) from *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Another nominee pictured is Andrew Umphrey (*Cats*, second from right.)**

**Bottom: MFA Acting candidates Susan Hansen (left) and Lolly Foy from *Enchanted April*.**



February 2008