

Backstage Pass

Minnesota State Mankato
Theatre & Dance

January 2011

The Odyssey plays again; *Born Yesterday* to open



Invited for KCACTF performance; to be preceded by local showing

The Minnesota State Mankato production of *The Odyssey* will be restaged for one performance at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 15, as a refresher for a performance at the Region V Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival at Iowa State University on Wednesday, Jan. 19.

The Mankato performance will be 7:30 p.m. Jan. 15 in the Ted Paul Theatre. Tickets are just \$10; a 2-for-1 special is available for current Minnesota State Mankato students, faculty and staff. Tickets will be available beginning at 6:30 p.m. that night.

The Minnesota State University, Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance will kick off the second half of its Mainstage season with Garson Kanin's highly successful comedy *Born Yesterday*.

Performances are 7:30 p.m. Jan. 27-29 & Feb. 2-5, with 2 p.m. matinees Jan. 29 & 30 and Feb. 5 & 6 in the Andreas Theatre of the Performing Arts Center. Community Bank Mankato sponsors.

An uncouth, corrupt tycoon, Harry Brock, brings his showgirl mistress, Billie Dawn, with him to Washington, D.C. When Billie's ignorance becomes a liability to Brock's shady business dealings, he hires a journalist, Paul Verrall, to educate her. In the process of learning, Billie realizes how corrupt Harry is and begins interfering with his plans. Faculty member Paul Finocchiaro directs.

This classic Kanin comedy was one of the longest-running plays on Broadway, and the 1950 movie captured the Best Actress Oscar for star Judy Holliday. Minnesota State Mankato presented *Born Yesterday* in 1958 and 1995.

Morgan Mallory, a first-year MFA Musical Theatre candidate from Pocatello, ID, who made her Minnesota State debut as "Circe" in *The Odyssey*, plays Billie Dawn. David Wasyluk, a BFA actor from Hastings who played "Zeus" in *The Odyssey*, is "Harry Brock" and

Ryan Thorsen, a senior Creative Writing and Theatre major from Northfield who was seen in *Twelve Angry Men*, is "Paul Verrall."

Individual tickets for *Born Yesterday* are \$14.50 regular, \$13.00 for senior citizens, youth 16 and under and groups of 15 or more, \$10.00 for current Minnesota State students. They may be purchased online at MSUTheatre.com or by calling the Theatre & Dance Box Office at 507-389-6661 between 4 & 6 p.m., Monday-Friday.

In addition, the department is offering Second Chance Subscriptions that include a ticket to each of the three remaining Mainstage shows—*Born Yesterday*, *Dracula* and *The Producers*—for just \$44. Visit MSUTheatre.com.

507-389-6661 MSUTheatre.com

Minnesota State Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance

Highland Summer Theatre 2011 shows announced

In December, it is traditional for us to announce the shows we've got planned for our upcoming Highland Summer Theatre season, and this year is no exception. We've still got half of a Mainstage and Studio season to complete, and we hope you'll come along with us for those.

Season brochures will be mailed in mid-April with individual tickets on sale in May. So, as you look forward to warmer temperatures, start planning for these shows:

Almost, Maine

By John Cariani

May 24-28

Made possible by General Mills Foundation Matching Gift Program

On a cold, clear, moonless night in the middle of winter, all is not quite what it seems in the remote, mythical town of Almost, Maine. As the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, Almost's residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend—almost—in this delightful midwinter night's dream. This is *Almost, Maine's* Minnesota State Mankato premiere.

Clue: The Musical

Book by Peter DePietro. Music by Galen Blum, Wayne Barker and Vinnie Martucci. Lyrics by Tom Chiodo. Based on the Parker Brothers' Board Game.

June 8-11

Sponsored by Gislason & Hunter, LLP, Attorneys at Law

The internationally popular game is now a fun-filled musical that brings the world's best known suspects to life and invites the audience to help solve the mystery: who killed Mr. Boddy, in what room and with what weapon. The audience takes a part in determining the combination of potential murderers, weapons and rooms. This is its Minnesota State Mankato premiere.

The Owl and the Pussycat

By Bill Manhoff

June 21-25

Sponsored by the Minnesota State Mankato TRIO Programs

In a San Francisco loft, aspiring author Felix focuses his binoculars on a prostitute plying her trade. He has her evicted but discovers she's an aspiring model and actress who now needs a place to live. Minnesota

State Mankato presented *The Owl and the Pussycat* in 1968 and 1970 in the Pit Theatre.

Annie

Book by Thomas Meehan, music by Charles Strouse, lyrics by Martin Charnin
Based on the Tribune Media Service Comic Strip, "Little Orphan Annie"

July 7-9 & 13-16

Sponsored by Eide Bailly, Orthopaedic & Fracture Clinic and Farrish Johnson Law Office

Annie is a spunky Depression-era orphan determined to find her parents, who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of a New York City Orphanage run by the cruel, embittered Miss Hannigan. Annie foils Miss Hannigan's evil plans, befriends President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and finds a new family and home in billionaire Oliver Warbucks. Minnesota State Mankato presented *Annie* in 1984 and summer 1993.

For more information, visit
MSUTheatre.com

***Dracula* takes the stage in February**

Faculty member Heather E. Hamilton, who this season has already directed the classic *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* on the Mainstage and the highly successful *Evil Dead: The Musical* in the Studio, will direct Hamilton Deane and John Balderston's adaptation of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* in February in the Ted Paul Theatre. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17-19 and 24-26, with 2 p.m. matinees on Feb. 19, 26 & 27.

Dracula is a 1924 stage play adapted by Deane and substantially revised for American audiences by Balderston in 1927. It was the first adaptation of the novel authorized by Stoker's widow and has influenced many subsequent adaptations. That first Broadway production starred Bela Lugosi, who then made a career of it. Minnesota State Mankato presented *Dracula* in 1983 and 1998.

Individual tickets for *Dracula* are \$14.50 regular, \$13.00 for senior citizens, youth 16 and under and groups of 15 or more, \$10.00 for current Minnesota State students. They are available now at MSUTheatre.com or at the Theatre & Dance Box Office in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center: 507-389-6661 between 4 & 6 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Scenic design is by senior undergraduate Katie Phillips. It features Dustin Guy Jackson in the title role, Anthony DePoto as Dr. Van Helsing, Andy Gulixson as Renfield, Charisse Danker as Lucy and Mina Marie Koch Johnson as Mina.

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