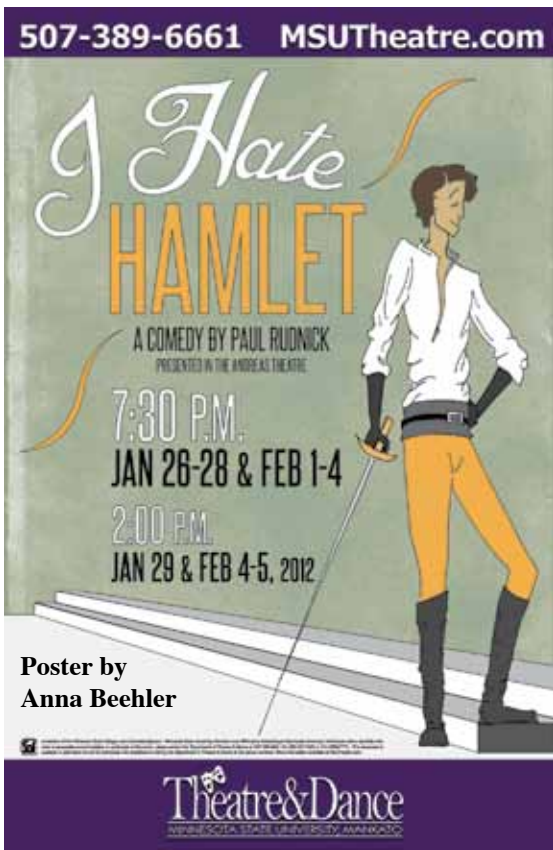


Backstage Pass

January 2012

I Hate Hamlet opens January 26



The “deceased” John Barrymore (Robb Krueger, on couch) and TV star Andrew Rally (John Jacobs) battle it out over the success of the performance of the title role ... Hamlet. They star in the Minnesota State University, Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance’s production of *I Hate Hamlet*, opening Jan. 26 in the Andreas Theatre of the Earley Center for Performing Arts. For tickets and more information, visit MSUTheatre.com. The Theatre & Dance Box Office re-opened Tuesday, Jan. 17, with regular hours 4-6 p.m., Monday-Friday. Visit our web site to hear from these two.

Alums fondly remember their 1995 *I Hate Hamlet*

In *I Hate Hamlet*, Andrew Rally seems to have it all: celebrity and acclaim from his starring role in a hit TV series; a rich beautiful girlfriend; a glamorous, devoted agent; the perfect New York apartment; and the chance to play Hamlet in Central Park. There are, however, a couple of glitches in paradise. Andrew’s series has been canceled; his girlfriend is clinging to her virginity with unyielding conviction; and he has no desire to play Hamlet.

The last time Minnesota State Mankato performed *I Hate Hamlet* in the summer of 1995, E. J. Subkoviak played John Barrymore. He says: “What I remember most about *I Hate Hamlet* was coming into the Highland production no more than two weeks after I had just closed a production of the same play

in Madison. The lines were already in my head, but with a very different cast, set, costumes, director, and everything else, it was as if I had stepped into a parallel universe where things were the same, but different, and JFK was still alive, and Germany had won the war — it was freaky. FREAKY.”

Eriq Nelson was Andrew Rally: “Other than the great cast, fun script, and getting to play with Eej everyday, what I enjoyed the most was doing Andrew’s monologue towards the end of the play. It’s really about why we’re actors. We want to make a connection to the audience. It’s a fun duality...the character is discovering that need to connect to his audience, while the actor (me) IS trying to do the same thing, in that monologue, in that moment. A great memory!” *Photos at MSUTheatre.com*

Thirteen to compete for Irene Ryans

Born Yesterday



Morgan Mallory & Robb Krueger

Dracula



Dustin Jackson & Lauren Mikeal Weber

The Producers



Adam Moen & Jason Garton



Semifinalists:
Morgan Mallory,
Lindsay Odegaard,
Laura Otremba,
Anthony DePoto
and Ceara Dowell.

Rent



Lindsay Odegaard & Laura Otremba



Wait Until Dark



Anthony DePoto & Charisse Danker



Altar Boyz



Jake McInerney & Sam Stoll



Not pictured:
Ceara Dowell is competing under the Minnesota State Mankato flag, but earned her nomination while a student at Bemidji State.



The cast of *Buzz*, in costume, before going out on tour Jan. 9. They are (left to right): Brandon Lund, Ben Stasny, Wil Bernstrom, Miranda Braunwarth, Tyler Stafford, Cassie Johnson and Megan Gilmore.

Buzz was written and directed by third-year MFA candidate Sara Pillatzki-Warzeha and Lauren Mikeal Weber, with musical direction by Weber.

Children's tour of *Buzz* hit the snowless road

Buzz is about overcoming obstacles in the face of adversity. It can be hard to fit in when the way someone communicates and interacts with others is different than the status quo. In *Buzz*, students will see one little bee's struggle to be part of his community. Through the understanding of a good friend, a wise mentor and others along the way, Benny

will learn how to use the things that make him unique to communicate and interact with others in a fun and creative way. In finding his inner strength, Benny will help teach his community that it is OK to be different and that sometimes those who are different from you can teach you the best lessons.

Minnesota State Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance

Department to host dance events this semester

This semester the Department of Theatre & Dance will host three special dance events, in addition to its Spring Dance Concert April 27 & 28.

At 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27, Dance Zorongo will perform a sampling of Flamenco in the Ostrander Auditorium of the Centennial Student Union. Admission is free.

Susana di Palma founded Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theatre in 1982. One of the few American Spanish dance companies that present both traditional flamenco programs as well as original theater flamenco works, Zorongo works with international artists, dancers and musicians — renowned for bringing the power, passion and virtuosity of the art of flamenco to American audiences.

Then at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 29, the Flying Foot Forum will perform in the Ted Paul Theatre of the Earley Center for Performing Arts.

Tickets are \$10 regular, \$9 discounted and \$8 for current Minnesota State Mankato students with a MavCard and are available at MSUTheatre.com or by visiting the Theatre & Dance Box Office between 4 & 6 p.m., Monday-Friday. Call 507-389-6661.

Finally, at 1 p.m. Friday, April 27, the Department welcomes back its first Dance major graduate, Bryan Gerber, for *515 ... the Tour* in the Ted Paul Theatre. *515* is an artistic representation of the real-life discrimination faced by same sex couples who reside in this state. State law defines marriage to be between one man and one woman. Using this definition, research has shown there are at least 515 laws in our state that exclude same-sex couples from certain rights and benefits that should be provided to everyone. *515* highlights many of these laws through song, theater and dance.



Susana di Palma

515 ... the Tour is made possible through a grant from Community Giving Program

Highland Summer Theatre 2012 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, as well as some very special Dance events, 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:

Love, Sex and the I.R.S.

By Billy Van Zandt and Jane Milmore

7:30 p.m. May 29-June 2

Jon Trachtman and Leslie Arthur are out of work musicians who room together in New York City. To save money, Jon has been filing tax returns listing the pair as being a married. The day of reckoning comes when the Internal Revenue Service informs the "couple" they're going to be investigated by a Mr. Spinner. Leslie masquerades as a housewife, aided by Jon's fiancée, Kate. But there's more going on than meets the eye when it comes to *Love, Sex and the I.R.S.* This is its Minnesota State Mankato debut.

Avenue Q

Music and Lyrics by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx, book by Jeff Whitty

7:30 p.m. June 13-16

Winner of the Tony "Triple Crown" for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book, is part flesh, part felt puppets and packed with heart. *Avenue Q* is a laugh-out-loud "for adults only" musical that tells the timeless story of a recent college grad named Princeton who moves into a shabby New York apartment all the way out on Avenue Q, which is far away but similar to Sesame Street. Together, Princeton and his new-found friends struggle to find jobs, dates and their ever-elusive purpose in life. Songs include "What Do You Do with a B.A. in English?," "The Internet is for Porn" and "Everyone's A Little Bit Racist." *Avenue Q* is making its Minnesota State debut.

God of Carnage

By Yasmina Reza;

translated by Christopher Hampton

7:30 p.m. June 26-30

Sponsored by the MSU TRIO Programs
The 2009 Tony Award winner for Best Play is an explosive comedic drama exploring the dynamics of two couples that meet over drinks to discuss an episode of

bullying perpetrated by the child of one set of beleaguered parents. *God of Carnage* is making its Minnesota State Mankato debut.

The Sound of Music

Music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, book by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse. Suggested by "The Story of the Trapp Family Singers."

7:30 p.m. July 12-14 & 18-21

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

This is the final collaboration between Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. When a postulant proves too high-spirited for the religious life, she is dispatched to serve as governess for the seven children of a widowed naval captain. Her growing rapport with the youngsters, coupled with her generosity of spirit, gradually captures the heart of the captain and they marry. Songs include "My Favorite Things," "Sixteen Going on Seventeen" and "Edelweiss." Minnesota State Mankato presented *The Sound of Music* in 1977 and summer 1996.

Minnesota State Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance

Earley Center for Performing Arts dedicated Nov. 12, 2011



Dean Emerita Jane Earley with the plaque that designates the Earley Center for Performing Arts.



Edna and Duane Georgius share their congratulations.

Some of what Dean Emerita Jane Earley said on this day (for the complete text and more photos, visit MSUTheatre.com):

In the arts so much is done by collaboration. In this building dedicated to the performing arts, there is a rich heritage of students and faculty and staff working together to produce moments that touch our hearts and give us context for our emotions. I'm honored to have my name attached to a building in which that kind of working together will go on and on, to produce evidence that "no one is alone" here because this is a place of community.

Thank you, and thank you all for coming today and for supporting our students.



Jane and Lee Snilsberg share a laugh.

Photographs by Mike Lagerquist



Her sister, Anne, joined the festivities.