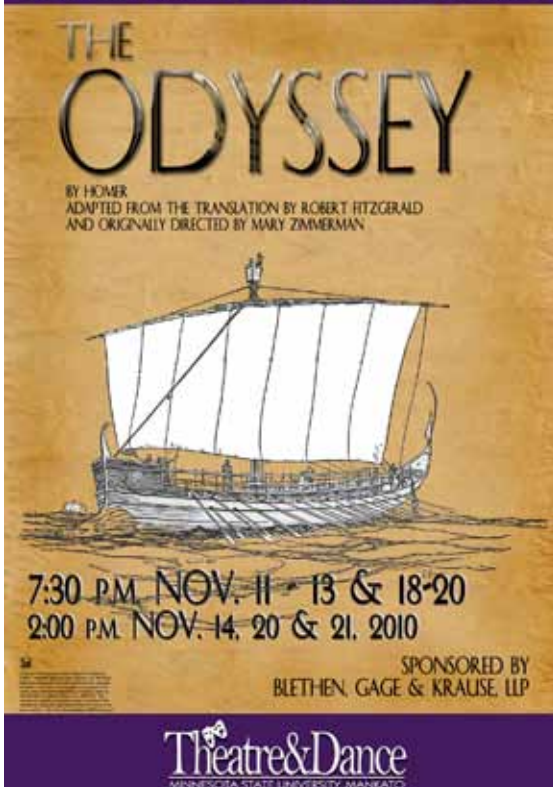


Backstage Pass

November 2010

The Odyssey reunites *Metamorphoses* team

507-389-6661 MSUTheatre.com



The Minnesota State University, Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance will present Homer's classic journey tale, *The Odyssey*, at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11-13 & 18-20, with 2 p.m. matinees Nov. 14, 20 & 21, in the Ted Paul Theatre of the Performing Arts Center. It is sponsored by Blethen, Gage and Krause, PLLP, of Mankato.

The epic story mainly centers on the Greek hero Odysseus (or Ulysses, as he was known in Roman myths) and his 10-year journey home following the 10-year Trojan War. In his absence, it is assumed he has died, and his wife Penelope and son Telemachus must deal with a group of unruly suitors competing for Penelope's hand in marriage.

This classic tale is vibrantly brought to life in this 1999 retelling from the author of *Metamorphoses*,



Tom Bliese and Mike Crowell (from his website) return to design set and music, respectively.

Mary Zimmerman, which Minnesota State Mankato presented in 2004 in a pool of water created in the Andreas Theatre. It is adapted from the translation by Robert Fitzgerald and originally directed by Mary Zimmerman.

The Odyssey is directed by Paul J. Hustoles, Chair, who also directed *Metamorphoses*. Also back from that original creative team are faculty emeritus Tom Bliese, scenic

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These Show Things are Tricky, and No Treat!!

While this is a tricky subject for our beloved patrons (and if you are reading this, we love you!), there are two things that really drive both our audiences and our actors crazy.

First is late arrivals. You've all experienced this. Just as the show is getting underway (that first big chorus number; that evocative piece of critical exposition) some body(s) scoots in front of you ("excuse me," "pardon, me," "so sorry") and absolutely

distracts you from the opening of the show. Some times, perhaps, it can't be helped—but usually it can.

Second, we would love to electronically wipe out all cell phone usage in our theatres but it is illegal. So we patiently remind you before every show to turn them off and not use them (texting is the latest abomination) during the performance. Not only does it distract the audience, but the actors can clearly see them and

they have plenty of other things to think about.

So please put those things away (turn them off first) and you have our permission to quietly tell others to STOP using them.

In New York, they just confiscate them. We are too Minnesota Nice to do that—but maybe we should! We can use your help on both of these counts! Thanks.

—Paul J. Hustoles, Chair

Minnesota State Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance

The Odyssey: Features Clayton Rutschow as Odysseus



A scene from the 2004 production of *Metamorphoses*, staged in the Andreas Theatre with a large pool at its center.

designer, and Minnesota State Mankato Masters in Music graduate Michael Crosswell, music composer and performer. Both are appearing as Nadine B. Andreas Guest Artists.

It features Clayton Oliver Rutschow, who just completed his Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship nominated role as “Nick” in Edward Albee’s *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, as Odysseus. The supporting cast is 29 strong, including Megan Volkman-Wilson as the ever-patient wife, Penelope.

Individual tickets for *The Odyssey* are \$14.50 regular, \$13 for senior citizens, youth 16 and under and groups of 15 or more, \$10 for current Minnesota State students.

They are available online at MSUTheatre.com, or by calling or visiting the Theatre & Dance Box Office at 507-389-6661 from 4-6 p.m., Monday-Friday.

There’s Still Time for You to Join Us in New York City in March

If you’ve been waiting for the right time to make that trip to New York City and Broadway, now is the time!

Join the cast of our children’s theatre touring production of *Iktomi* and many others in New York March 8-13. That gives you the potential to see SEVEN shows as well as such tourist attractions as the Empire State Build-

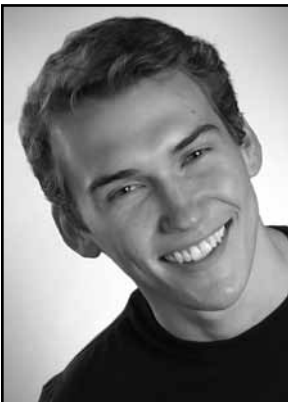
ing, the Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero and more museums than you can shake a stick at!

Come as a group, share a hotel room in the Wellington, right on 7th Avenue and 55th St., and plan your own itinerary. Subway stops are right outside your door, the TKTS booth and the Theatre District are just blocks

away, and delis and restaurants are everywhere.

For more information, visit our web site at <http://www.mnsu.edu/theatre/nyc-trip.html>, or contact Paul J. Hustoles at 507-389-2118. A deposit now holds your spot so you can begin to plan out your 5 days plus in New York City during our spring break in March.

Chris Kind is lead in *Evil Dead* regional debut



Chris Kind

Christopher Arn Kind, 27, of Mankato, 2005 graduate of the Minnesota State Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance, starred in the Minneapolis Musical Theatre (MMT) production of *Evil Dead: The Musical*, Oct. 22-Nov. 7, at the Illusion Theater in downtown Minneapolis. MMT presented the area premiere of this humorous Off-Broadway show.

He appears as “Ash,” the lead of the story who wavers between cowardice and heroism.

Evil Dead: The Musical combines the zaniest elements of the classic Sam Raimi horror films, *Evil Dead 1*, *Evil Dead 2* and *Army of Darkness*, and sets them to music to create a campy, high-energy theatrical experience that comes complete with a Splatter Zone. Minne-

sota State Mankato will present the show Dec. 1-4 in its second Studio season show of this academic year, including a Friday 11 p.m. “midnight matinee.”

To find out more about Chris’s experience with *Evil Dead*, and to catch up with what he’s been doing since graduating, visit the Video section of the Minnesota State University, Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance web site at MSUTheatre.com



Minnesota State Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance

Since Last We Spoke ...

Chicago, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Costume Sale



Adam Moen made quite the impression as “Mary Sunshine” in *Chicago*.



Shelley Whitehead and Robb Krueger as “Martha” and “George” (far left and right) set a bad example for Molly Tucker and Clayton Rutschow in *Virginia Woolf?*



The Performing Arts Center lobby filled up quickly when costumes went on sale Oct. 25 and 26.