

Backstage Pass

September 2009

Come with us *Into the Woods*

The Minnesota State Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance will open its Mainstage Season with the Stephen Sondheim musical *Into the Woods*. Performances are 7:30 p.m. Oct. 1-3 and 8-10, with 2 p.m. matinees Oct. 3, 4, 10 & 11, in the Ted Paul Theatre. It is sponsored by HickoryTech and dedicated to Dr. Jane F. Earley, who retired this summer after serving nearly 40 years as the Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities at Minnesota State Mankato.

Into the Woods, with a book by James Lapine, blends various familiar fairy tales with an original story of a Baker and his Wife, who initiate the action by attempting to reverse a curse on their family in order to have a child. It's filled with magic, music, twists and turns and is unlike any fairy tale you've heard before. Minnesota State Mankato presented *Into the Woods* in 1992. It includes such songs as "Into the Woods," "Agony" and "No One is Alone."

Department Chair Paul J. Hustoles directs, with musical direction by Nick Wayne. The Baker and his Wife are played by Mathias Becker, a senior BFA Musical Theatre candidate and recipient of this year's Ted & Katy Paul Theatre Scholarship, the top department award, and Meredith D. Larson, a senior BFA Acting candidate and recipient of a Lee and Loretta Snilsberg Theatre Scholarship. Megan Volkman-Wilson, the Witch, is the recipient of this year's Emily Walter Musical Theatre Scholarship.



The Witch (Megan Volkman-Wilson) tells the Baker (Mathias Becker) and his Wife (Meredith Larson) about the spell she cast on his father many years ago. *Into the Woods*, sponsored by HickoryTech Corp. and Foundation, runs Oct. 1-5 & 8-12 in the Ted Paul Theatre.

Individual tickets for *Into the Woods* are \$20 regular, \$18 for senior citizens, youth 16 and under and groups of 15 or more, and \$14 for current Minnesota State students. Season subscriptions are available through Oct. 11. The 7:30 p.m. performance on Friday, Oct. 2, will be ASL interpreted for the hearing-impaired (please specify when ordering). Tickets are available online at MSUTheatre.com or by calling the Theatre & Dance Box Office at 507-389-6661 between 4 and 6 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Minnesota State Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance

507-389-6661 MSUTheatre.com

Twelve Angry Men

Written by Reginald Rose
Adapted by Sherman Sergel

7:30 P.M. Oct. 15 - 17 & 21 - 24
2:00 P.M. Oct. 17, 18, 24 & 25, 2009
Presented in the Andreas Theatre



Theatre & Dance
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

All rise for *Twelve Angry Men*

Twelve Angry Men, staged in the round in the Andreas Theatre, is directed by Paul Finocchiaro with scenic design by MFA candidate John W. Olive. A few of the performance are sold out or nearly sold out, especially those on Friday and Saturday evenings; individual tickets are on sale now at MSUTheatre.com or by calling the Theatre & Dance office at 507-389-6661 or stopping by between 4 and 6 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Taking place in the jury room where the twelve jurors (yes, in 1957 they would have been all men) deliberate, this staging will invite the audience members to feel like they are the 13th juror. Mentally and emotionally, feel the give and take as more evidence is presented or evidence already heard is viewed in a different light. What verdict will you deliver?

2009-10 Department Scholarships

The following students were awarded scholarships for the current academic year from the department.

MATHIAS BECKER

The Ted and Katy Paul Theatre Scholarship

MEREDITH D. LARSON

CRAIG DANIEL STASTNY

The Lee and Loretta Snilsberg Theatre Scholarship

MATTHEW A. GILBERTSON

The Stephan Klein Performing Arts Scholarship

JACOB NATHAN

The Fred and Karin Bock Theatre Scholarship

STEPHEN MARK CRISP

The Mary Jo and Paul J. Hustoles

Musical Theatre Scholarship

JEFF A. SMITH

The Kirk Ristau Memorial Theatre Scholarship

J. ALEXANDER COE

The Shirley Grundmeier Musical Theatre Scholarship

TERRY NELSON

The Larry and Betsy Fowler Theatre Scholarship

KATHERINE PHILLIPS

The Margaret and Daniel Preska Theatre Scholarship

CLAYTON OLIVER RUTSCHOW

The Paul J. Hustoles Theatre Scholarship

KIMBERLY STEFFEN

The Florence and Raymond Sponberg

Theatre Scholarship

AARON ALAN

The Phyllis and Clif Kroon

Musical Theatre Scholarship

RAEANNE CARLSON

The Julio and Doris Gasteiro Theatre Scholarship

JOSEPH B. CROOK

The Joan and James Pengra Theatre Scholarship

CAITLYN GERCHAK

The Lorraine Larson Scholarship

RUDOLPH SEARLES III

The Jane L. Rush Theatre Scholarship

LAURA D. THAISEN

The Sandy and John Hey City Scholarship

MEGAN VOLKMAN-WILSON

The Emily Walter Musical Theatre Scholarship

KATHERINE RAPACZ

The F. James and Nancy Zwickey

Theatre Scholarship

McKENZIE JONES

The Bunny Just Theatre Scholarship

Minnesota State Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance

Dance Concerts 2009-10

Each semester, the Dance Program presents three performances of dance. Traditionally, the fall offering is a “bridges” concert, one that spans the disciplines in exploring the scope of movement. In 2008, for example, each dance was inspired by and/or performed to text.

This year, the Dance Program will welcome dancers from various community programs and will feature them during the first half of the concert. This will include Dance Express and Mankato Ballet.

In the spring, the concert showcases a full year of work by visiting artists, faculty members and students. Visit MSUDance.com for more information.

As a reminder, tickets for both concerts are on sale now and may be purchased at MSUTheatre.com or by calling or visiting the Theatre & Dance Box office, located in the Performing Arts Center lobby, between 4 and 6 p.m., Monday-Friday. Call 507-389-6661.

Dancing Communities

7:30 p.m. Dec. 4-5,
and 2 p.m. Dec. 5, 2009,
in the Ted Paul Theatre

This season the “bridge” is with community. Come and see members of other community arts groups join forces for a one-of-a-kind performance.

Spring Collection Concert

7:30 p.m. April 29 & 30,
and 2 p.m. May 1, 2010,
in the Ted Paul Theatre

The culmination of a year’s worth of creative work will be performed.

Tickets for both concerts are \$9 regular, \$8 for senior citizens, youth under 16 and groups of 15 or more, and \$7 for current Minnesota State students.

Here’s what’s also happening in the Department

Rikkie Recycle is booking

We’re currently booking performance for *Rikkie Recycle and the Eko Kidz!*, our 2010 children’s theatre touring production. If we haven’t been in touch with your school, give us a call at 507-389-2118 with information about who we should contact.

We go out Tuesdays and Thursdays in January, February and March. In addition, we’ll have a performance in the Andreas Theatre on Feb. 27.

Special performances

In November, we’ll have additional performances of *A Christmas Carol*. In addition to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 12-14 and 19-21, plus 2 p.m. matinees on Nov. 14, 15, 21 & 22, we will have a performance at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, and 2 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 29 — the weekend AFTER Thanksgiving. What a great way to start the upcoming holiday season than with Ebenezer Scrooge and the Cratchits!

We also have additional, special performances of *Rocky Horror Show* planned for midnight on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 4 and 5, in the Andreas Theatre. As with the 7:30 p.m. performances of this Studio production Dec. 2-5, these matinees will include controlled participation by the audience.

More information on this will be shared at performances; this show features audience interaction, adult situations and mature language.

Dueling performances

For the first time since we opened the Andreas Theatre in the summer of 2000, we will have per-

formances going on in both theatres at the same time: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4 and 5. At that time, *Rocky Horror Show* will be performing in the Andreas Theatre and the Dancing Communities dance concert will be in the Ted Paul Theatre.

Plan to attend them both ... not at the same time, of course.

Surveying continues

As we do every other year, we are currently surveying our audiences so we may better serve you and present shows you want to see.

During *Into the Woods*, as we did during *Damn Yankees* this summer, an audience survey will be included in every third show program. If you receive a survey, we ask you to complete and return the survey as soon as possible so your opinion can be recorded.