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UMD Theatre Season Preview

SEPTEMBER 13, 2016

The upcoming theatre season at UMD will focus on engaging members of the community. Head of Theatre Department, Mark Harvey, explains that while last year's productions were aimed towards UMD students, this year they are hoping to reach out to the people of Duluth.

"Our season is going to be a lot of fun," Box Office Manager, RaeAnn Jones, said.

While last year's season tackled more serious issues, this season is all about having fun.

"We want everyone to be excited," Harvey said.

"One River," premiering Sept. 29, is a production written by UMD professor Tom Isbell. This original show is based on the One River, Many Stories project, started by the UMD

journalism department last year. It will feature stories from real Duluthians about their personal experiences with the St. Louis River.

“It’s about Duluth. There are characters in it that are people that I know,” Harvey said.

In October, “Shakespeare In Motion,” will be a collection of dances inspired by Shakespeare. Students are able to come up with original routines to showcase their love for Shakespeare.

“We wanted it to be centered around the fact that William Shakespeare’s First Folio will be exhibited at the Tweed for the month of October,” Harvey said.

Come December, “She Loves Me” is the first production that will appear on UMD’s mainstage theatre. This will be a very special production this year as Michael Brindisi, from the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre, will be directing.

“He was thrilled, he said he could have cast it three times,” Harvey said. “He is really excited to be directing this for us, and we are just thrilled to have him.”

The first show in Spring semester, “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare,” is a fast-paced contemporary comedy.

“It is hilarious for people who know Shakespeare, but it’s also really fun for people who have never seen a Shakespeare play in their life,” Harvey said.

March’s “Marvin’s Room” is the most serious of this year’s productions and will hit the Dudley Experimental Stage. This powerful story deals with a family who has a member suffering from a terminal illness.



“This family comes together to try to grapple with issues that haven’t been dealt with,” Harvey said.

This production will also feature a guest director, William Payne, who is the School of Fine Arts’ dean.

“The Little Mermaid” is this year’s final production and big blockbuster hit. There is hope that it will bring lots of Duluth families to the show.

“I’m expecting that we will get some princesses and mermaids attending,” Jones said.

With this season ready to begin, students can get season tickets that give you a ticket to all three of the Mainstage shows. An individual ticket is \$8 and you can get season tickets for \$15. Tickets for “One River” are also on sale now.

One River

Shakespeare in Motion

Directed by Tom Isbell

Directed by Rebecca Katz Harwood

September 29-October 1 & October 4-8 at 7:30pm

October 20-22 at 7:30pm

October 23 at 2pm

October 2 at 2pm

She Loves Me

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)

Directed by Michael Brindisi, Guest musical director

Directed by Jenna Soleo-Shanks

Book by Joe Masteroff

By Adam Long, Daniel Singer & Jess Winfield

Music by Jerry Bock

Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick

February 2-4 & 8-11 at 7:30pm

Based on a play by Miklos Laszlo

February 5 at 2pm

December 1-3 & 7-10 at 7:30pm

December 4 at 2pm

Marvin's Room

Disney's *The Little Mermaid*

Directed by SFA Dean, Bill Payne

By Scott McPherson

Directed by Kate Ufema, musical
directed by Andy Kust

March 2-4 & 14-18 at 7:30pm

Music by Alan Menken

March 19 at 2pm

Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Glenn Slater

Book by Doug Wright

April 13-14 & 19-22 at 7:30pm

April 15, 22 & 23 at 1pm

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