The Department of Theatre identifies four distinct areas that are central to our missions: to prepare students for careers in theatre through a balance of academic and production training; to serve all UMD students through artistic fulfillment, and appreciation of, theatre and dance; to serve as a center for campus and community cultural enrichment; and to serve as a center for guidance and resource in northeastern Minnesota for anyone desiring information about theatre and dance.

The faculty and professional staff of the Department of Theatre are committed to demanding standards of performance in the classroom and in artistic endeavors.

**The Department of Theatre**

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- Ann A. Bergeron, Professor, Acting/Directing and Dance
- Jon Berry, Associate Professor, Theatre History, Theory and Playwriting
- Patricia Dennis, Department Head, Associate Professor, Costume Design
- Allen Fields, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Dance
- Michael George, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Dance
- Mark A. Harvey, Associate Professor, Lighting/Sound Design
- Karen Hoffman, Assistant Professor, Scenic Design
- Tom Isbell, Associate Professor, Acting
- Kathryn A. Martin, Professor, Directing/Theatre Education
- Holly Oden, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Theatre
- William Payne, Associate Professor, Directing
- Kate Ufema, Associate Professor, Acting/Voice Specialist
- Arden Weaver, Professor, Scenic Design
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University of Minnesota Duluth
Department of Theatre

presents

The Stronger
by August Strindberg
Translation by Jon Berry

&

Miss Julie
by August Strindberg
Translation by Elizabeth Sprigge

Director
Kate Ufema

Scenic Designer
Keith Shelbourne

Lighting Designer
Ken Koegler

Costume Designer
Stacy Mittag

Sound Designer
Mark Harvey

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CAST

The Stronger

Early 1890's Sweden
A woman's café
Christmas Eve

Cast in order of appearance
Waitress ........................................ Cyrena Beaumont
Miss Y .......................................... Alex Kotlarek
Mrs. X .......................................... Angela Bell

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

Miss Julie

Early 1890s
The kitchen of a well-to-do Swedish manor
Midsummer's Eve and Day

Cast in order of appearance
Kristin .......................................... Cyrena Beaumont
Revelers ....................................... Angela Bell
Jean ............................................ AJ Converse
Reveler ........................................ David Hauer
Miss Julie ..................................... Sarah Schmitz
Violinists ..................................... Becky Farmer

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August Strindberg (1849-1912) is one of the modern world’s most prolific dramatists. He is known to have written approximately 70 plays (including dramatic fragments), and was highly (though grudgingly) acclaimed by many of his contemporaries and immediate successors including Henrik Ibsen, Eugene O’Neill, Sean O’Casey, and Bernard Shaw, as a visionary genius. Strindberg’s dramatic works progressed through nineteenth century naturalism, folk drama and fantasy, and finally to a symbolism and surrealism that were far ahead of his age. His other writings included fiction, poetry, autobiography, criticism, and philosophy. He was also accomplished in painting, sinology, and science.

Strindberg’s Miss Julie, and its curtain teaser, The Stronger, both center around the concepts of love, desire, dashed dreams, and POWER. These scripts provide stimulation for both actors and audiences alike, due to their richness of language, thought, symbolism, character development, and behavior.

Strindberg was a tortured, yet a brilliant soul. He was born of a successful merchant and a servant girl, and brought up in a household fraught with the chasm of class. Throughout his adult life Strindberg was beset by all kinds of obsessions and manias, not the least of which was the hatred of women. Three brutally unsuccessful marriages led him to both humiliate and idealize women all in the same breath. Thus, women are often the center of his dramatic action and are richly, though cruelly drawn.

Miss Julie is one of Strindberg’s most famous and most produced plays outside of his native Sweden, and is considered to be one of the great plays of the modern age. It was written during his “naturalistic” period and is known for its simple, elegant story, its free, outspoken and poetic language, and its violent solution. The unabashed frankness of its dialogue, and the beheading of a live bird at every performance, literally shocked the Victorian sensibilities of the late nineteenth century; its references to menstruation, the abortion potion for the “bitch” (a domestic dog in this instance), privies, and religious hypocrisy were not welcome by many. As a result, after the play’s first performance in Copenhagen, it was banned for several years in Denmark.

In my mind, Strindberg ranks in the top one percent of the great playwrights. Thus, any actress who tackles the role of Mrs. X in The Stronger or the title role of Miss Julie has her hands full — full of the playwright’s personal obsessions, fears, hatred, manic behaviors, human desires, tragic flaws . . . and his genius. Beyond, as rehearsals for these plays progressed, I began to hear Stringberg’s very personal male voice emerge from Jean’s lips, and sense his unspoken thoughts through the eyes of Miss Y. Quite frankly, in the rehearsal hall late at night, this playwright’s immediacy was actually palpable and eerie . . .

This is my 10th year at UMD, and this is our first Strindberg presentation during my tenure here. I and the students have learned much. Now we offer up the fruits of our labor for your thoughtful scrutiny and enjoyment.

Kate Ufema
Special Thanks To:
Alison Aune
The Duluth Playhouse
Kate Maurer
Arna Rennan

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You are invited to join us as we create an endowment to support the UMD Department of Theatre. Your financial assistance will help with the cost of the performances you see on the Marshall Performing Arts Center stage, now and in the future.

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