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Sweet Sorrow, Happiness Go Hand-in-Hand in New Theatre Production

Winthrop University

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Sweet Sorrow, Happiness Go Hand-in-Hand in New Theatre Production

Quick Facts

- The play is student-led and directed by theatre major Sydney Moore.
- Show times are 8 p.m. March 26-30. It is a cultural event.
- Tickets are \$5 Tuesday-Thursday with Winthrop ID; \$8 Friday-Saturday.



Melancholy Play

ROCK HILL, S.C. — When it came time to choose a show to direct this semester, Winthrop University theatre major **Sydney Moore** was so frustrated she was about to draw names out of a hat. But then she remembered a scene she had worked on as part of **Assistant Professor of Theatre Laura Dougherty's** directing class, and inspiration struck.

The result of that inspiration is “**Melancholy Play**,” the student-led production from the **Department of Theatre and Dance**. The production opens at 8 p.m. March 26 in **Johnson Studio Theatre**. More show times are at 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 27-Saturday, March 30.

The play, written by **Sarah Ruhl**, tells the story of an Illinois town that is turned on its head when the beautiful yet sorrowful Tilly, played by **Riley Ketcham**, moves to town. Everyone can't help but fall in love with Tilly, but when she falls in love with a man

named Frank, played by **Brandon Byron**, the town is thrown into chaos. As Tilly grows happier, the people of the town grow sadder.

“The quirky, farcical way it examines emotion really caught my attention and I knew it was the piece I wanted to propose,” said director Moore. “It was kind of like it was just waiting for me the entire time; it was too perfect. It's just a really neat look at how we qualify the emotions of others to suit our own needs.”

Moore said the characters are like caricatures and mock classic film characters and has a little bit of everything.

“Romance, comedy, intrigue, long-lost Scandinavian twins, scattered musical numbers, magical transformations...you name it, ‘**Melancholy Play**’ has it,” she said. “I'll admit, it's a weird show, but it's an honest, charming, funny, wonderful weird that you just have to see to understand.”

Other students acting in the production are: **Cecily Bigham** as Frances; **Loren Mixon** as Joan; **Ryan Carter** as Lorenzo; and **Leah Smith** as Julian.

Tickets are \$5 Tuesday-Thursday with a Winthrop ID and \$10 to the public. Tickets are \$8 Friday and Saturday and \$15 to the public. All tickets are general admission. It is a cultural event.

For more information or to purchase tickets call the box office at 803/323-4014 or e-mail them at boxoffice@winthrop.edu.

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