Fall 11-6-2009

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Winthrop University

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Recommended Citation
Winthrop University, "Fall One-Act Festival Will Showcase Theatre Students' Talents" (2009). Winthrop News 2009. 133.
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Fall One-Act Festival Will Showcase Theatre Students' Talents

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Winthrop advanced theatre students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their diverse array of directing, acting, staging and producing talents during the Department of Theatre and Dance's Fall One-Act Festival, a three-day run of four plays to be held Nov. 20 at 8 p.m., Nov. 21 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Nov. 22 at 2 p.m. in Johnson Studio Theatre.

A regular fall event, the festival highlights the work of theatre students enrolled in THRA 431: Directing II, THRA 261: Stage Lighting and THRA 330: Stage Management. Students have worked together on all aspects of the production process – from selecting a play, working with designers and casting to working with actors and staging – to bring the plays to the stage.

During this production, four student directors have a unique and valuable opportunity to get "hands-on experience" directing in the university environment that will help them in the "real world of theatre," said Russell Luke, theater instructor.

"In the world of professional theatre, the bottom line is success – making a profit. This is one of the few chances theatre students get to experiment and try things. If they work, great; if they fail, the students learn from their mistakes and move on," said Luke, adding that students also "learn much about relationships, dealing with others and the delicate art of cooperation."

The festival's lineup of plays, which range from comedy to drama, will include the following:

"Check Please, Take Two" by Jonathan Rand
Director: Darryl LaPlante (Goose Creek, S.C.)
Cast: Morgan Alber (North Charleston, S.C.); Joe Baroco (Cape May, N.J.); Caitlin Colyer (Oxford, Ohio); Brian Jones (Columbia, S.C.); Storm Smith (Sumter, S.C.)

"Circuit Breakers" by Arthur W. French
Director: Katherine Hon (Rock Hill)
Cast: Lauren Acobe (Charleston, S.C.); Norman Burt (Rock Hill); Dody Gaston (Summerville, S.C.); Sarah MacDonald (Goose Creek, S.C.)

"The Conduct of Life" by Maria Irene Fornes
Director: Roderice Gilliam-Wheeler (Spartanburg, S.C.)
Cast: Cody Abshire (Liberty, S.C.); Carmen Cancer (Rock Hill); Dennis DeJesus (Columbia, S.C.);
Devaire Jeffries (Blythewood, S.C.); Paisley Moore (Rock Hill)
This dramatic play contains adult-themed material.

“The Ransom of Red Chief” by Burton Bumgardner
Director: Ben Pierce (Rock Hill)
Cast: Morgan Alber; Hayden Henderson (Greenville, S.C.); Rachel Middleton (Lexington, S.C.); Haley Phillips (Anderson, S.C.); Tyler Wells (Easley, S.C.)

Fall One-Act Festival tickets are $8 with Winthrop I.D. and $15 for the general public. Seating is limited.

For tickets, contact the Box Office at 803/323-4014 or boxoffice@winthrop.edu.