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Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications
Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer
Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

Ray Schultz, associate professor of theatre, directs Next Fall

Summary: His direction of the Tony nominated comic drama is receiving rave reviews.

(June 23, 2011)-Ray Schultz, associate professor of theatre at the University of Minnesota, Morris, is directing the critically acclaimed play, *Next Fall*, written by playwright Geoffrey Nauffts, for the Performance Network in Ann Arbor, Michigan. His direction of the Tony nominated comic drama is receiving rave reviews.

Patty Nolan, Detroit theatre examiner, writes that under the “even-handed, thoughtful direction of Ray Schultz,” the six-member cast produces an “amazing performance...these characters feel like real people, not stereotypes.”

Next Fall artfully tells the five-year story, although not chronologically, of Luke and Adam, two men of different ages, different religious beliefs, and different life views. The unfolding of the complexities of their relationship, from multiple moments in time, stimulates the audience to reflect on issues that are both timely and timeless: love, commitment, and faith.

A faculty member since 2000, Schultz’s professional directing credits include *Nocturne for a Southern Lady*, *Eulogy*, and *The Little Dog Laughed*, which received the 2009 Wilde Award for best play and best actress. Schultz’s work has been recognized through various awards and nominations from *Backstage* magazine, *Detroit Free Press*, the Wilde Awards, *Ann Arbor News*, *Oakland Press*, and the Michigan Allied Professional Theatres. Schultz also has extensive professional acting credits, include roles in *Doubt*, *Twelfth Night*, *All My Sons*, *Take Me Out*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Julius Caesar*, *Angels in America, Part I*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Macbeth*, and *Henry IV, Part I*. At Morris, Schultz has directed extensively including *The Merchant of Venice*, *Our Town*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *The Laramie Project*, *Twelfth Night*, and *As You Like It*.

Schultz holds a doctorate and master of arts in theatre, directing, and dramatic literature from Wayne State University.

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