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2010-11 theatre season: a melting pot of controversial, new, innovative theatre

Summary: The season will feature a variety of genres, as well as issues, in each production.

(September 20, 2010)-In the 21st century, we are constantly evolving, learning, and discovering. With this in mind, the University of Minnesota, Morris Theatre Discipline announces the 2010–11 season: “A melting pot of controversial, new, innovative theatre.” The “melting pot” of a season will feature a wide variety of genres, as well as issues, in each production.

Tackling the potentially controversial and highly subjective topic of modern art, Yasmina Reza’s ART is a Tony award winning comedy that tests the meaning of art and the limits of friendship. For the first time in Morris theatre history, the play’s director, Ray Schultz, associate professor of theatre, will guide two separate casts performing the same script in rotating repertory. Tap Payne, professor of theatre, will design both sets and lights. Theatre majors Anthony Albright, Browns Valley, and Donald Raphael, El Paso, Texas, will complete senior projects with this production. Albright will serve as ART’s stage manager/assistant director, and Raphael has been cast in a leading role. ART will be presented in the Humanities Fine Arts (HFA) Black Box Theatre on November 3–7, 2010.

Categorized in the new genre of September 11 comedy is Recent Tragic Events by Craig Wright. Set in a Minneapolis apartment in the wake of the September 11 attacks, Recent Tragic Events explores the roles of fate and chance in this surprisingly funny play. Questioning the thin line between the expected and the bizarre, the characters embark on a journey of courage, humor, and perseverance in the face of crisis. Theatre major Alex McGreavey, Maple Grove, will serve as the director, completing her senior project. Recent Tragic Events will show in the HFA Black Box Theatre on February 10–12, 2011.

This year’s children’s show is the innovative, world premiere event of Sophie and the Adventures of Ice Island. Forrest Musselman writes this environmentally friendly production in collaboration with Siobhan Bremer, the show’s director and Morris associate professor of theatre. Sophie has always wanted to be a superhero and save the world, so when she falls asleep on her homemade boat and suddenly finds herself on Ice Island, which is melting, Sophie finally gets her chance. Join Sophie in this environmental adventure where going “green” becomes a life or death struggle. Senior Kelly Gustavsson will complete her capstone theatre project as the production’s stage manager. Sophie and the Adventures of Ice Island can be seen in the HFA Proscenium Theatre April 15 and 16, 2011, with additional school matinees.

For more information, please contact the Morris Theatre Publicity and Box Office at 320-589-6249 Monday–Friday from 2 until 5 p.m. or by [e-mail](#).

Photo: actors in rehearsal for ART

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educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.