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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

2006 UMMY Award-winning film reappears as 2009 Fringe Festival musical

Summary: Characters created in song, word, and dance for a film created as students came to life in new artistic expression.

(July 24, 2009)-In 2006, Rumspringa won four UMMys—and the hearts and funny bones—of judges and audiences during the annual University of Minnesota, Morris Student Film Festival. Co-producers Jake Scott '06 and Tyler Helland '07, composer Paul Jenni '06, and songwriter Andrew Tralle '08 now report that characters created in song, word, and dance for their film came to life in a new artistic expression. In August, Rumspringa the Musical appeared on the Augsburg Studio stage as part of the 2009 Twin Cities Fringe Festival.

Rumspringa the Musical follows the journey of Rebekah, a young Amish woman, who “takes her rumspringa,” an opportunity to explore the world beyond her community. Scott shares that the plot, “definitely a comedy,” involves a love triangle between Rebekah and her Amish suitor, and Rebekah and a futuristic robot.

Inspired by attending the 2007 Fringe Festival and seeing an opportunity for their production, Jenni and Scott began revising the original film script and musical compositions into a stage musical structure more than a year ago. “We’ve been polishing and tweaking in a casual way in our free time,” shares Scott. But since June, when they learned that their show was chosen by lottery as a Fringe Festival production, they worked hard to pull details together and conducted rehearsals in earnest.

And while Scott notes that the show was an “incredible amount of work,” he also shares that rehearsals were very fun and felt like UMM “reunions” with so many Morris graduates involved in the production. The artistic team of actors, writers, and musicians included: Alex Carlson '08, theatre arts and economics Katie Carlson '09, theatre arts, English, and secondary education licensure John Eisenrich '09, social science Bert Michalscheck '09, music Tyler Helland '07, chemistry Scott '06, elementary education Andrew Talle, music and secondary education licensure and Paul Jenni '06, mathematics and physics.

Rumspringa the Musical was performed on Saturday, August 1, Sunday, August 2, Monday, August 3, Thursday, August 6, and Saturday, August 8. Visit the [Fringe Festival Web site](#) and watch video clips from the original production filmed at the University of Minnesota, Morris.

Photo above: Bert Michalscheck, Jake Scott (front), Paul Jenni, John Eisenrich, and Alex Carlson

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