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**"Our Town" will open theatre "Season of Classics"**

*Summary: Two dramas by distinguished Nobel Prize-winning American authors and a world favorite fairytale will offer audiences contemporary relevance in the literature and folklore of yesteryear during this year's theatre discipline "Season of Classics."*

(October 6, 2008)-The University of Minnesota, Morris Theatre Discipline announces its 2008-09 theatre performance "Season of Classics." Two dramas by distinguished Nobel Prize-winning American authors and a world favorite fairytale will offer audiences contemporary relevance in the literature and folklore of yesteryear.

This season opens with Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning "Our Town," directed by UMM Theatre Professor Ray Schultz. Schultz returns to UMM after a year-long sabbatical. UMM Theatre Professor Tap Payne has designed the play's sets and projections. In an effort to mirror the play's setting, Grover's Corners, N. H., to the community of Morris, Schultz has assembled both community members and students to participate in the creation of this production.

One of America's most widely performed plays, Wilder's work examines both small town values and universal truths as the residents of his fictional town show the joys of life and family, as well as the need to "make time to look at one another." Wilder's study of life, love, marriage and death is simultaneously comic, moving and philosophical. Visit "Our Town" November 6-8, with 7:30 p.m. performances, and a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday in the Proscenium Theatre.

This winter, "Of Mice and Men" takes the stage under the direction of UMM Theatre Professor Siobhan Bremer. Nobel Prize-winning author John Steinbeck delivers theatre-goers back to the 1930s Depression-era for a close examination of human nature under the harshest circumstances. Main character, Lennie, due to his mild mental disability is totally defenseless in the ways of the world and relies entirely on his only friend, George. However, as time progresses and the predatory nature of the world asserts itself, life takes its toll on George's idealist outlook. "Of Mice and Men" premieres February 26-28 performances begin at 7:30 p.m. with a matinee on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Sprouting this spring is "Jack and the Beanstalk," directed by senior theatre major, Kelli Tucker. This classic fairytale has surprising twists and new characters added to the mix for even more adventure leaving all imaginations reaching for the sky. Public performances for the children's show are scheduled for April 24 and 25 invited school matinees will be offered April 22-30.

Ticket prices for "Our Town" and "Of Mice and Men" are \$8 for general admission and \$5 for UMM students and senior citizens. Special group discounts are available for groups of 10 or more who reserve in advance. For more information and advanced tickets sales, please contact the theatre box office at (320) 589-6249, or [thrupub@morris.umn.edu](mailto:thrupub@morris.umn.edu).

Photo: "Our Town" cast: Back row standing: Erin Stahel, Erin Denman, Peter Ray, Anna Jessup, Chuck Grussing. Back row, sitting: Margaret Payne, Marco Avila. Front row: Aaron Jansen, Jimmy Person, Ray Schultz (director), Tim

Gregory.

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