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**UMM theater announces 2005-2006 performance season**

*Summary:*

(September 26, 2005)-A new take on classic Shakespeare set in 1980s Wall Street, the consequence of a first kiss, an evil baron in a tower, and fun-livin' Texas style all share the spotlight as part of the 2005-2006 season of the theatre discipline at the University of Minnesota, Morris.

Love, money, and revenge take center stage in William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. UMM's production will give classic Shakespeare a modern twist, transporting each character into the cutthroat world of 1980s Wall Street where insider trading reigns and "greed is good." This dark and bawdy Shakespeare comedy runs November 2-5 at 7:30 p.m. with an additional Saturday matinee on November 5 at 2 p.m. Assistant Professor of Theatre Ray Schultz directs *The Merchant of Venice* with set, costume, and lighting design by Visiting Professor of Theatre Adam Parboosingh.

In Diana Son's *Stop Kiss*, two women discover that a kiss is not just a kiss, but may have wider, more serious consequences. This disturbing drama that deals with societal misperceptions of female friendship is the fall production for UMM's student theatre group, the Meiningens. The show, which runs December 8-10 at 7:30 p.m. with an additional Saturday matinee on December 10 at 2 p.m., is directed by Meiningens co-chair Megan Losure.

This year, take the children out to explore the world of medieval fantasy and allow them to storm *The Dark Castle* with UMM's annual children's production. Watch Dimwit, a kind, common young man, outwit the evil baron to win the hand of the beautiful Princess Lumina. As Dimwit tries to win the girl, he also proves that goodness remains in a person's soul forever and friends are sometimes found in unlikely places. Public performances for *The Dark Castle*, which is written by Sally Netzel, are 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday, April 1. Invited school matinees run March 30-31 and April 3-5. Assistant Professor of Theatre Siobhan Bremer, whose last children's theatre production was *The Hobbit*, directs *The Dark Castle*. Set and lighting design is by Adam Parboosingh.

Saddle up your horse y'all and visit the town of Tuna, Texas, a place where the members of the community provide all of the entertainment. The Meiningens conclude UMM's theater season with *Greater Tuna* by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, and Ed Howard. Aunt Pearl will have you laughing until your stomach hurts, along with the rest of the wacky Tuna folk. There are plenty of good times to be had in "the third smallest town" of the great Lone Star State. *Greater Tuna*, directed by senior theatre major Todd Janssen, runs April 27-29 at 7:30 p.m. with shows on Saturday at 2 and 7:30 p.m.

Ticket prices for *The Merchant of Venice* are \$7 for general admission and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Special group discounts are available for groups of 10 or more. For more information and advanced ticket sales, contact the theatre box office at (320) 589-6249, or [thrupub@morris.umn.edu](mailto:thrupub@morris.umn.edu).

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