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Performing Arts Series event receives Heartland grant

Summary:

(August 3, 2005)-The University of Minnesota, Morris Performing Arts Series has been selected to receive a grant of \$2,500 from the 2005-2006 Heartland Arts Fund for the March 18, 2006 performance of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Aquila Theatre Company of New York and London.

Heartland Arts Fund is a program of Arts Midwest funded by the National Endowment for the Arts with additional contributions from General Mills Foundation, Land O'Lakes Foundation, Sprint Corporation, and the Minnesota State Arts Board which brings top-quality performances to regional audiences, plus educational and residency activities for people of all ages. Through the Fund's support it initiates tours in the 15-state region by regional, national, and international performing artists with all events reaching underserved audiences.

David J. Fraher, executive director, Arts Midwest says, "The University of Minnesota, Morris is to be commended for their commitment to serving their community with this distinctive event. Audiences in west central Minnesota will have the opportunity to see the exciting work of Aquila Theatre, many for the first time, and Arts Midwest is proud to help to support this work and the University. "

The multitalented British/American performers of Aquila Theatre have been bringing high quality classical drama to audiences throughout the United States, Canada and Europe since 1991. The company's mission is to allow audiences to enjoy great plays as live, visceral, and above all, entertaining theatre. Area audiences may well remember Aquila's 2001 outstanding performance at UMM of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. For their encore visit, the company will present Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Stevenson virtually invented the genre of modern horror fiction with this gripping classic. The story offers compelling views on the nature of human emotion and the bounds of scientific research, a fascinating detective story and a fictional parallel for the unsolved murders of 'Jack the Ripper.'

Arts Midwest: Based in Minneapolis, Arts Midwest connects people throughout the Midwest and the world to meaningful arts opportunities, sharing creativity, knowledge, and understanding across boundaries. Arts Midwest connects the arts to audiences throughout the nine-state region of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. One of six nonprofit regional arts organizations in the United States, Arts Midwest's history spans more than 25 years. National Endowment for the Arts: The mission of the National Endowment for the Arts is to enrich our nation and its diverse cultural heritage by supporting works of artistic excellence, advancing learning in the arts, and strengthening the arts in communities throughout the country. Established by Congress in 1965, the Arts Endowment is an independent agency of the federal government and is the largest annual funder of the arts. Since then, it has awarded more than 120,000 grants in all 50 states and the six U.S. jurisdictions.

For more information on: • the 2005-2006 Performing Arts Series season call 320-589-6080 • the University of Minnesota, Morris call 320-589-6050 or visit www.morris.umn.edu • Arts Midwest, call 612.341.0755 or visit

www.artsmidwest.org.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable 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.