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Theater faculty, Tap Payne, lends creative talents to Marshall Field's holiday show

Summary:

(December 7, 2004)-By Jackie Thrasher, UMM News Service -- What do hot cocoa, cookies, and Snow White have in common? For many, all are part of annual holiday traditions. If another of your holiday traditions is to visit Marshall Field's (formerly Dayton's) in downtown Minneapolis, this year's auditorium show has a Morris connection.

"Snow White: The Fairest Tale of All" is the theme for the infamous spectacle, located on the store's 8th floor. And University of Minnesota, Morris Professor of Theatre Arts Tap Payne had a hand in creating the masterpiece of 14 sets.

Thanks to his daughter, Lili Payne, who works for Marshall Field's, and because he is on sabbatical leave from teaching classes at UMM, Payne had the opportunity to work on this holiday tradition with other talented individuals.

Payne joined the Snow White crew in mid-September, and lent his talents in painting and prop construction. Many of the props he created were small, yet vital to the final masterpiece: a crank handle for a well, a mixer with two wooden spoons for the kitchen, and a cauldron that billows with smoke.

"It was fun—I generally don't get to spend two days doing work on a prop. I just got to have a good time," said Payne when asked about the experience.

Payne also learned about new tools and techniques, which he may choose to apply to his work with future theater projects at UMM. He has also been asked to return to work on the auditorium's next show.

"Snow White: The Fairest Tale of All" is open daily to the public, now through December 31.

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