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1-28-2004

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University Relations, "Meiningens' performance: For those facing death "The Shadow Box" reflects on life's simple joys" (2004). *Campus News Archive*. 1940.

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Meiningens' performance: For those facing death "The Shadow Box" reflects on life's simple joys

Summary:

(January 28, 2004)-The Meiningens student theater organization in association with the theater discipline at the University of Minnesota, Morris, announces the 2004 winter production of *The Shadow Box*, performing February 5-7 at 7:30 p.m., with an additional Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre.

Written by Michael Cristofer, *The Shadow Box* won the 1977 Pulitzer Prize for Best Drama, as well as the Tony Award for Best Play that same year. Cristofer's stirring script opens the eyes and allows one to look into the very mind and soul of the terminally ill and their loved ones. With profound honesty and candid humor, the play's characters reflect on life's simple joys while facing its harsh realities.

Senior theatre arts major Christopher Anderson of Grand Rapids, is directing *The Shadow Box* for his senior theater project. "Not many are of the mind set that matters of death and dying are funny or comical," Anderson said. "But I knew if I approached this show focusing on death and loss I could possibly lose the real message of this show, the message that these characters, these people are still living, in fact they are more alive now than they were before. Having the knowledge that each day, each moment is precious provides a heightened awareness of life."

The cast of nine characters includes Brendan Brandt (Mankato) as Mark Margaret Dobie (Mapleton) as Felicity Timothy Finnegan (Maplewood) as Steve Kristy Goebel (Plymouth) as the Interviewer Heather Hayes (Hopkins) as Maggie Nick Lostetter (Buffalo) as Joe Kayla McCarthy (Clara City) as Beverly Jake Rowan (Hopkins) as Brian and Ann Tally (Roseville) as Agnes.

Cast member Kristy Goebel is also sound designer and co-lighting designer, along with assistant director/stage manager Andrea Pletsch (Belle Plaine). Assistant stage manager for this production is Nathan Long (Glenwood). The set is designed by Serrah Langin (Sioux Falls, S.D.), and costume designer is Johanna Farmer (Spearfish, S.D.). The play's props are designed by Lydea Aurentz (Buffalo), assisted by Jennifer Vareberg (Frazee). Dramaturg for the production is Alyssa Herzog (Montgomery), and Kellie Knudsen (Atwater) designed the posters.

The Shadow Box will perform Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 5-7 at 7:30 p.m., with an additional Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre, Humanities Fine Arts, on the University of Minnesota, Morris campus. Tickets are \$5 for general admission and \$4 for students and senior citizens. For more information and reservations, call the box office at 320-589-6249 or e-mail thrpub@mrs.umn.edu. *The Shadow Box* is produced in special arrangement by Samuel French, Inc.

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