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2015–16 Theatre Season Demonstrates the Value of Different Perspectives

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[2015–16 Theatre Season Demonstrates the Value of Different Perspectives](#)

Summary: Shows include The Normal Heart, Eleemosynary, Pinocchio Commedia, and 4.48 Psychosis.

MORRIS, Minnesota (October 9, 2015)—The University of Minnesota, Morris Theatre Discipline’s 2015–16 season brings to the stage an array of differing perspectives. Audiences will see through the eyes of a passionate AIDS activist, three generations of women, a mischievous puppet, and a person with clinical depression—and leave with a newfound appreciation for and acceptance of others.

The season begins with a story of political and social activism during the HIV/AIDS epidemic of the 1980s in New York City. Written by Larry Kramer and directed by Professor of Theatre Arts Ray Schultz, *The Normal Heart* follows the story of writer and activist Ned Weeks as he strives to raise awareness of the unidentified disease outbreak that has been targeting gay men. While Kramer’s alter ego, Ned, insists on angry protest, his lover and fellow activists prefer to take a less strident stance—will their differences undermine their common goal? This production runs November 12–14 in the Humanities Fine Arts (HFA) Raymond J. Lammers Proscenium Theatre.

From activism to alms, the next show, *Eleemosynary*, follows the mother-daughter relationships of Dorothea, her daughter Artie, and her granddaughter Echo. Written by Lee Blessing and directed by Associate Professor of Theatre Arts Siobhan Bremer, *Eleemosynary* illustrates the power of words by following these three generations of women as they encounter the consequences of hiding behind words and ultimately find that the only way to acceptance of one another is through communication. This production runs February 18–20 in the HFA Black Box Theatre.

While the winter production highlights mother-daughter interactions, the children’s show is a classic in father-son relationships: Johnny Simons adaptation of Carlo Collodi’s *Pinocchio Commedia*, directed by Jonas Newhouse ’16, Minneapolis. Amusement and mayhem ensue when the wooden puppet Pinocchio is given the chance to live life as a real boy, so long as he never lies and listens to his creator and father, Geppetto. While these terms seem simple at first, they become much more challenging as Pinocchio faces pressure from his peers. This production runs April 15–16 for the general public and April 13–20 for invited school performances in the Proscenium.

To close out the season, Meiningens Student Theatre Group will present *4.48 Psychosis*, written by Sarah Kane and directed by Matt McDonough ’16, Saint Paul. This abstract show delves into the experience of clinical depression by providing an insider’s perspective on the voices of internal conflict. Audiences will leave with a more empathetic understanding of those who suffer from these painful thoughts. This production runs April 28–30 in the Black Box.

For more information, please contact the Theatre Publicity and Box Office at 320-598-6274 or spohrl@morris.umn.edu.

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