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Theatre Discipline's 2012-13 Season Promises Deception, Dispute, and a Little Bit of Magic

Summary: From heated debate on political issues, to humorous squabbling between spouses, to a king's quarrel with magic, the Theatre Discipline will present audiences the opportunity to watch characters act under the pressure of various struggles.

(October 4, 2012)-The University of Minnesota, Morris Theatre Discipline’s 2012-13 season brings to the stage a wide array of conflict. From emotionally heated debate on murder and other political issues, to humorous squabbling between spouses, to a king’s quarrel with magic, audiences can absorb themselves in watching characters act under the pressure of various struggles.

The season begins with The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later, the gripping sequel to the original play by Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project that was performed at Morris in 2002. Ray Schultz, associate professor of theatre arts and director of The Laramie Project, directs the highly acclaimed sequel that delves further into the tragedy and continued speculation surrounding the murder of twenty-one year old Matthew Shepard, a gay man and University of Wyoming student. Taken from the actual transcripts of follow-up interviews with various citizens of Laramie, university professors, family, friends, and even the killers themselves, the sequel explores the varying perspectives of Laramie residents and examines how, and if, society has progressed in the ten years since the murder. With great conviction, the characters bare all by talking honestly about how the doubt, rumors and scrutiny over the killers’ testimonies continue to raise the heated question of whether the brutal slaughter was truly “a hate crime.” The production runs November 1-3, 2012, in the Humanities Fine Arts Black Box Theatre.

On the lighter side, Siobhan Bremer, associate professor of theatre arts, will direct God of Carnage, a comically frenzied production centered around two couples who meet to discuss a fight that occurred between their young sons on the playground at school. Written by Yasmina Reza, this sharp-witted play earned the Olivier Award in London for Best New Comedy. The New York Times claims it “delivers the cathartic release of watching other people’s marriages go boom.” While discussing how to handle the boys, the couples eventually spiral into a new argument, speculating their own issues and quirks with the utmost criticism by spitting out loud opinions and accusations against one another. God of Carnage will be performing February 7-9, 2013, in the HFA Raymond J. Lammers Proscenium Theatre.

Closing the discipline’s season will be The King Stag, adapted by Sylvia Ashby from Carlo Gozzi’s Il Re Cervo—this year’s children’s show selection. The adventurous fairytale tells the story of King Seren, a ruler who wants nothing more than to discover a young lady who truly loves him. In his search to pick a queen fit to rule at his side, Seren relies on the abilities of a magic statue that possesses the unique power to decipher a dishonest heart. Prime Minister Periglio is incredibly jealous of the King and seeks to ruin his chance of happiness in finding love by using a magic spell to turn himself into the King and the King into a stag. Directed by guest artist Kathy Ray, the show will be open to the public April 12-13 with additional school performances running April 10-18.

For more information, please contact the Theatre Publicity and Box Office at 320-598-6249 or thrpub@morris.umn.edu.
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