2-17-2012

Schultz to Perform Show on Tennessee Williams

University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news

Recommended Citation

http://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news/506

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the External Relations at University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. It has been accepted for inclusion in University Relations News Archive by an authorized administrator of University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. For more information, please contact skulann@morris.umn.edu.
Schultz to Perform Show on Tennessee Williams

Summary: Blanche and Beyond: Letters of Tennessee Williams on March 1 and 2. Performances will be held in the HFA Black Box Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

(February 17, 2012)-Ray Schultz, associate professor of theatre arts, will be performing Blanche and Beyond: Letters of Tennessee Williams on March 1 and 2. Performances will be held in the HFA Black Box Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

Adapted by Steve Lawson, Schultz’s solo performance will present a portrait of Williams at his creative peak through the creation of such plays as A Streetcar Named Desire and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof as well as the demons that haunt him and lead to his increasingly self-destructive behavior. Although letters, the piece has been constructed and staged to emphasize the drama of Williams’ life and the complexity of the close relationships he shared with such literary and theatrical figures as Carson McCullers, Gore Vidal, and Elia Kazan. Blanche and Beyond is an excellent introduction to the canonical works of Tennessee Williams, and also serves as a study of the highs and lows of the creative process.

“Williams wrote some of the great American plays of the 20th century, and the more I have studied him, the more I admire his talent and how much of his creative energy and spirit was poured into every one of his works,” says Schultz.

Through his performance, Schultz hopes that the audience will come to better appreciate Williams as both a writer and as a person.

“His writing voice was singular in terms of its heightened emotionalism and poetic quality, and through his letters one can certainly see that his ‘real’ voice and his writing voice are almost always one and the same,” says Schultz. “You can certainly hear echoes of his plays and characters in his letter writing. Additionally, I think an audience will appreciate the lost art of letter writing itself in this day and age we simply don't sit down very often and craft our thoughts and feelings in letters—something that was routine, particularly for writers prior to the internet.”

Admission is $3 for students and seniors and $8 for general admission. All proceeds will benefit the George Fosgate Theatre Scholarship and Meiningens Students Theatre Organization. This performance of Blanche and Beyond is supported by grants from the University of Minnesota Grant-in-Aid of Research, Artistry and Scholarship program, the University of Minnesota Imagine Fund Annual Faculty Award program, and the University of Minnesota, Morris Faculty Research Enhancement Funds program.

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.