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Performing Arts Series receives grant to present a live-action graphic novel on stage

Summary: A grant from Arts Midwest will support the performance of The Intergalactic Nemesis, a hilarious, uplifting comic book adventure.

(July 18, 2011) - The University of Minnesota, Morris Performing Arts Series has been selected to receive funding from Arts Midwest’s Performing Arts Fund, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from the Minnesota State Arts Board, General Mills Foundation, and Land O’Lakes Foundation.

The Performing Arts Fund supports the touring of professional performing artists specializing in the fine arts of dance, theater, music, and family entertainment throughout Arts Midwest’s nine-state region. These engagements include public performances and in-depth educational activities reaching audiences that lack access to the performing arts.

Arts Midwest Executive Director David J. Fraher says, “Arts Midwest is proud to support the University of Minnesota, Morris in their upcoming presentation of The Intergalactic Nemesis, scheduled for November 12, 2011. In these economically trying times, arts events like this not only provide uplifting experiences for audiences, they also create meaningful jobs for those employed in the arts industry—thus amplifying the effectiveness of our funding.”

A live-action graphic novel, the stage version of The Intergalactic Nemesis projects comic book artwork panel-by-panel while three actors perform the voices, a foley artist creates the sound effects, and a keyboardist plays the score, all live. The story unfolds in the year 1933. Pulitzer-winning reporter Molly Sloan, her intrepid assistant Timmy Mendez, and a mysterious librarian named Ben Wilcott face the most serious threat Earth has ever known—an impending invasion of sludge monsters from the planet Zygon.

The performance is appropriate for the kid in everyone as the hilarious, uplifting adventure creates heroes-by-circumstance overcoming impossible odds. 12, 2011

Based in Minneapolis, Arts Midwest is one of six nonprofit regional arts organizations in the United States. Its mission is to connect people throughout the Midwest and the world to meaningful arts opportunities, sharing creativity, knowledge, and understanding across boundaries. Since its establishment more than 25 years ago, Arts Midwest has been serving audiences, arts organizations, and artists throughout the nine states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and beyond.

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established bringing the arts to all Americans and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Endowment is the nation’s largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases.

Visit Morris’s Performing Arts Series and Arts Midwest online.
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.