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Summary: The 2009-10 University of Minnesota, Morris Theatre season begins Thursday, November 5, 2009, with an adaptation of Sophocles’ Greek tragedy Antigone. Written in response to the Nazi regime’s occupation of Paris, the adapted Antigone by Jean Anouilh runs November 5-7, 2009, at the Humanities Fine Arts (HFA) Proscenium Theatre.


Anouilh’s play depicts conflict that arises between Antigone and her ruling uncle Creon over the proper burial of Antigone’s brother. The Theatre Discipline and Meiningens, the Morris student theatre organization, collaborate in this first-ever joint production. Student director Jenna Reiser ’10, Bismarck, N. D., states that she was attracted to Antigone because the play shows how “civil laws crafted in black and white terms often clash with personal morality and can be detrimental to the human spirit.”

Professor of Theatre Tap Payne, celebrating his 30th year at the Morris campus, designed the elegant set that combines classical Greek elements with touches of modernity. Three students are completing senior projects: Reiser, director Marco Avila, El Paso, Texas, costume designer and Elizabeth Karges, Minneapolis, lighting designer.

The season continues with Adventures in Mating by Joseph Scrimshaw. The Meiningens production of this uniquely participatory event will be directed by senior Sam Krump-Johnson, Maple Grove, and will be shown at two locations—February 4–6, 2010, HFA Black Box Theatre and February 12–13, 2010, Old No. 1, downtown Morris. The Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler, sponsored by Meiningens will take the stage February 18–February 20, 2010, in the HFA Proscenium Theatre. William Shakespeare’s As You Like It wraps up the season. Associate Professor of Theatre Ray Schultz directs this comedy about love, mistaken identity, and the clash of town and country sensibilities. Drawing inspiration from the campus’s sustainability initiatives, Shakespeare’s Forest of Arden literally and figuratively will “go green.” The design team, lead by Associate Professor of Studio Art Jess Larson and Technical Director Jason Rasinowich, will create a comedic landscape from recycled and reclaimed materials. Completing their senior projects with this classic play are Ally Roberts, Willmar, stage manager and Anna Jessup, Brooten, technical director. As You Like It will run in the HFA Black Box Theatre April 22–24, 2010, with additional select high school matinees to be announced.

To purchase tickets and for more information, contact the University of Minnesota, Morris Theatre Box Office Monday through Friday, 2–5 p.m., at 320-589-6249 or thrpub@morris.umn.edu.

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