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Pioneer Players 2017-18 season: From existential to farcical

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. – The University of Wisconsin-Platteville Theatre Program announces the 2017-18 Pioneer Players production season, which promises to provide audience members with a theatre experience that is engaging, entertaining, meaningful and thought provoking.

“Waiting for Godot” (Oct. 11-15, 2017)

The season begins with the existential classic “Waiting for Godot” by Samuel Beckett.

“Arguably the greatest play of the 20th century, Beckett’s tragicomedy explores the fundamental questions of existence,” said Dr. Ann Dillon Farrelly, associate professor of theatre at UW-Platteville and director. “In 2017, I think that the United States is at a crossroads where we are asking ourselves the same questions Beckett was asking of his post-war world. We will stay true to the play while also making it relevant to the American moment.”

Performances will be in the Center for the Arts Theatre on Oct. 11, 12, 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. There also will be an 11 a.m. matinee on Oct. 12 and a 2 p.m. matinee on Oct. 15. The production is recommended for “existential” audiences.

“Noises Off” (Nov. 29-Dec. 3, 2017)

The second fall show will be Michael Frayn’s classic farce, “Noises Off.” According to Farrelly, who will also be directing this production, “After the deep dive into ‘Godot,’ we thought we’d lighten things up a bit with this hilarious farce.”

A play within a play where everything goes wrong, “Noises Off” will run Nov. 29, Nov. 30, Dec. 1 and Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. with matinees Nov. 29 at 11 a.m. and Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. This production is recommended for mature audiences.

Benefit Wednesdays

The Wednesday evening performances of “Waiting for Godot” and “Noises Off” will be benefit performances. Tickets for Benefit Wednesdays are \$7, with all proceeds going to the Platteville Food Pantry and the Grant County Humane Society in Lancaster, Wisconsin.

“1776” (April 5-15, 2018) and One Act Festival (May 3-5, 2018)

In the spring, the season will continue with the musical “1776,” and the student-directed One Act Festival. This year’s season will highlight the work of student lighting and costume designers.

“The two fall shows both have student lighting and costume designers, which is always exciting,” said Farrelly. “We are going to delve into deep subjects this season, but we are also going to have some fun. We hope the Platteville community will come out and see our talented students.”

Show times, ticket prices and other information can be found on the theatre program’s website at www.uwplatt.edu/theatre. Tickets may be purchased by calling the University Box Office at 608-342-1298 or by visiting the online box office at tickets.uwplatt.edu.

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