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A note from the chair

Dr. Cynthia Allan
Department of Communication

Welcome to the 2013-2014 season of Pittsburg State Theatre! This is our final academic year using our small Studio Theatre for part of our season. It is a time of excitement and anticipation for us as we think about moving to the Center for the Arts. We plan to maintain our same commitment to quality university theatre by providing performances that cover a broad swath of dramatic offerings. From cutting edge contemporary drama to family-friendly productions, we will maintain our motto of “Catch the Big Stories Here!” as we move into a new era. Our current season bears that out.

It also gives me pleasure to take this opportunity to thank the many supporters of Pitt State Theatre. Many are not aware that PSU Theatre is funded solely through student fees and box office revenue, so every ticket sold helps us build, develop, and engage with our discipline. Not only does this money provide for production costs, it also provides student scholarships, guest artists, and funding for student travel to conferences and auditions. Your support is what allows us to bring you fine productions today from the professionals of tomorrow. For that we are eternally grateful.

The 2013/14 season begins October 24-26 with The Dinosaur Musical, by Robert and Willie Reale. This family-friendly musical, described as a “charming and amusing musical full of witty wordplay” is directed by Gil Cooper, with musical direction provided by AJ Beu, a graduate student in the Department of Music. Then, on December 5-6, we continue our tradition of Theatre Unplugged with the student-directed one-act plays produced in the Studio Theatre on Joplin Street.

In the spring of 2014, the Studio Theatre hosts two diverse works. On February 27 – March 2, Dr. Joey Pogue presents his directorial vision of the Ibsen play, An Enemy of the People, the story of what happens when one man, sensing an environmental danger, goes against the prevailing tourism economy of his community. A man of integrity persecuted for his beliefs is a story as relevant today as when Ibsen first premiered this play in the late 19th century. Pitt State Theatre will tie this production in with the gallery showing of artist Chad Erpelding, so watch for the Interdisciplinary Lecture Series arranged by the Department of Art as this production draws closer.

Closing the season, directed by yours truly and running from April 24-27, is Sarah Ruhl’s Dead Man’s Cell Phone, a poetic, sweet and darkly hilarious comedy about a dead man, a cell phone, and a woman eating soup who is taken on an odyssey in which she is confronted with our need to connect in a technologically obsessed society. Don’t miss the original music written specifically for the production by popular local band, DeadEye.

I am sure the faculty, staff, and students of the Department of Communication and PSU Theatre join me in expressing our gratitude for your support and our sincere hopes that you enjoy the 2013/14 season.

Regards,
Dr. Cynthia Allan
Often recognized as the father of modern drama, Henrik Ibsen has earned a place in history as one of the world’s greatest playwrights. A leading figure in an artistic renaissance occurring in Europe toward the end of the nineteenth century, Ibsen gave us plays that are as topical today as they were in the latter half of the 1800s. Especially relevant are his “social” plays, written between 1877 and 1882. An Enemy of the People represents the last play of that cycle.

On one level, An Enemy of the People is about poison water, environmental contamination, and exploitation of the innocent. On another level, it is about the quest of the individual to willingly embrace the truth when that truth has been shunned by the majority. Challenging us to take an introspective look at ourselves, Ibsen’s plays urge us to contemplate the misfortunes of our own making. According to Ibsen, as we comply with the social order, we often volunteer for predicaments that insure our own oppression. These disasters can be avoided or, once established, eradicated. However, only if we are willing to fully acknowledge our own role in their inception and do the tedious, inconvenient work required to fix what we have broken.

Life demands that we make choices. In his social plays, Ibsen examines the conditions surrounding those choices as he asks us an important question: Will we adhere to values derived from selves that have been morally and ethically actualized or will we be driven by the mandates of a social order that by its very nature discourages integrity as it takes us hostage?
As a Professor who teaches a variety of classes in the Communication Department, directing An Enemy of the People has been a wonderful project. Through this experience, my cast, crew and I have managed to turn the theatre into a true laboratory or “seeing place” (as the ancients called it) where art converges with social science and the territorial lines that supposedly separate these two domains have disappeared thereby facilitating a process of enlightenment that’s been uniquely productive.

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The cast rehearsing blocking with Director Joey Pogue

To the cast and crew,

Break a leg!

Sincerely,

President Taylor Patterson-Elliott
Vice President Logan Qualls
Business Manager Natalie Black
Secretary Micah Black

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Theatre Honor Society - Alpha Theta Epsilon Chapter
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GORILLAS4HIRE
Jacob Titus, left, Taylor Patterson-Elliot, middle, and Jeanine Kunshek, right.

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An Enemy of the People
by Henrik Ibsen
Adapted for the American Stage by Arthur Miller

Director: Joey Pogue
Costume Designer: Lisa Quinteros
Set Designer: Doug Bennett

The action takes place in a Norwegian Town

Act I
Scene 1: Dr. Stockmann’s Living Room
Scene 2: The same, the following morning

Act II
Scene 1: Editorial office of the People’s Daily Messenger
Intermission
Scene 2: A room in Captain Horster’s house

Act III
Scene: Dr. Stockmann’s living room the following morning

Production Staff
Stage Manager ........................................ Megan Westhoff
Assistant Stage Manager ............................. Kacey Morgan
Lighting Design ........................................ Jesse Gregory*
Lighting Board Operator ............................ Caitie Almond*
Sound Board Operator .............................. Lindsey Lockhart
PR/AD Manager ...................................... Ali Smith
Poster/Program Design ............................ April Huninghake
Production Photographer ......................... Mckenna Hightower
Props ................................................... Micah Black*, Breezi Hancock, Olivia Ellison
Hair ..................................................... Dani Pollard, Vanessa West
Makeup ............................................... Bobbi Jo Smith
Costume Assistants ............................... Evelyne Kangery, Barb Davis

Cast of Characters:
Dr. Stockmann ............................................ Logan Qualls*
Peter Stockmann ...................................... Jacob Hacker*
Catherine Stockmann ............................... Taylor Patterson-Elliott*
Petra Stockmann ..................................... Jeanine Kunshek*
Hovstad ............................................... Rashid Fielder-Bey*
Aslaksen .............................................. Lawrence Burry
Billing .................................................... John Mazurek
Morten Kill ............................................ Jason Wiske
Captain Horster ..................................... Jacob Titus
The Drunk ............................................. Nick Thompson
Morten Stockmann ................................. Dominic Stefanoni
Ejlif Stockmann .................................... Jack Stefanoni

Townspople
Wei-Chen Liu, Evelyne Kangery, Emily Miller, Billy Drury, Kayla Barbour, Kip Sagehorn, Ariel Kaszycki

Special Thanks...
Pittsburgh Community Theatre
Linda Timme
Mimi Little

This production features the use of electronic smoking devices that do not emit harmful ingredients into the air. No flash photography or video recording is permitted during the performance. For the comfort of other audience members, please take crying or fussy children to the lobby.

*indicates member of Alpha Psi Omega, Theatre Honor Society