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NEWS

For immediate release

Ouachita Theatre Arts to present “Second Star to the Right” Feb. 19-23

By Anna Hurst

February 9, 2015

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208

ARKADELPHIA, Ark.—Ouachita Baptist University's Department of Theatre Arts will present “Second Star to the Right” Feb. 19-23 as part of its new student-produced theatre initiative, The Muse Project. Performances will take place in Verser Theatre at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 19-21 and Feb. 23 as well as a 2:30 matinee on Sunday, Feb. 22. Tickets are \$10 each.

“Second Star to the Right,” created and directed by Kaylee Nebe, a senior musical theatre major from Mesquite, Texas, is a Cirque du Soleil-inspired exploration of *Peter Pan*. Serving alongside Nebe as musical director is Natalie Williams, a music and theatre arts double major from Little Rock, Ark.

“I have chosen to tell the classic story of Peter Pan, taking out all of the dialogue and using just movement,” Nebe explained. “Because of the whole flight element of Peter Pan ... most of the acts are aerial acts.” Aerial silks, hoops and a suspended cube are just a few of the Cirque-style acts to be featured in the performance.

The performance will be close to an hour long with seven different scenes. Each scene will include Peter and Wendy visiting a classic character or group from Never Land and feature a different dance style or circus act.

“If you sit in the front row you will get some interesting interaction,” Nebe said. “There is a lot of audience interaction throughout this show. Characters will be moving through the audience and into the audience and over the audience.”

The Muse Project is a new initiative by OBU's Department of Theatre Arts that invites students to submit theatrical experiences or shows that they would like to produce. One proposal is accepted each year and fully produced on a Ouachita stage. Through Muse, students have the opportunity to devise their own work and are encouraged to begin thinking about what they can make happen now, rather than after graduation.

“One of the reasons why we ended up choosing this proposal is because ... it is telling a story in a new way,” said Daniel Inouye, assistant professor of theatre arts and faculty producer for the project. “We have a theater, and we are going to do shows or dramas or musicals or operas; that is kind of the typical way we use storytelling over here. So the fact that [Nebe] is approaching the idea of telling this story through movement and dance and silk work is just really kind of cool. We have not seen anything like that here before, so I think it will be an interesting experience for our audiences to see something fun and unique.”

Nebe has been training on silks since her sophomore year and began preparing the cast for her production last fall. She also serves as costume designer for the show.

“All of these students have put in so much hard work to get where they are,” she said. “I honestly did not expect to get to such a high level, but they have all been so dedicated that it is getting up there near professional work and is looking super good.”

Nebe encourages those who “are interested at all in the thrill of the circus or a sweet story told in a new way” to come see the show. “There’s the ‘aww’ moments and then the ‘oh my gosh’ moments,” she said. “The whole show in general will be great for all ages. Anyone will enjoy it. It [will be] such a fun experience, so I am hoping that everybody will come see it.”

Tickets may be purchased at the OBU Box Office on weekdays from 1-5 p.m. or online at www.obu.edu/boxoffice. For more information, call the box office during business hours at (870) 245-5555 or email Daniel Inouye at inouyed@obu.edu.

FULL LIST OF CAST AND CREW AVAILABLE AT <http://www.obu.edu/news/2015/02/09/ouachita-theatre-arts-present-second-star-right-feb-19-23>.