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NEWS

For immediate release

Ouachita to host student-produced performances “Render” and “Alone Together” Feb. 18-22

By Caitlyn Barker

February 10, 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 its second annual Muse Project Feb. 18-22. This year’s student-produced productions include “Render” and “Alone Together.” Performances will be held in Verser Theatre at 7:30 p.m. on Feb.18-20 and Feb. 22 as well as a 2:30 matinee on Sunday, Feb. 21. Tickets are \$10 each.

Both the student-written productions will be presented each night. “Render” was written by Natalie Williams, a senior music and theatre arts double major from Little Rock, Ark., and is directed by Kyle Osmon, a senior musical theatre major from Rogers, Ark. It is a musical about a graphic designer who is given the opportunity to leave his job as a machine operator for new work and a chance at love.

“Alone Together” was written by Walter Dodd, a senior theatre arts major from Little Rock, Ark., and is directed by Stacy Hawking, a senior musical theatre major from Sherwood, Ark. It shows how relationships change between people through difficult situations.

“‘Render’ is a fun musical comedy with a bit of a fantastical twist.” Williams said. “It’s quirky, romantic, and above all, fun to watch.”

“Audiences can expect laughter, ‘aww’ moments, flashy costumes, sassy fantastical characters and catchy songs,” Osmon added. “The set and special effects are out of this world. Our technical designer Marshall Pope is a magician, and I can’t wait to see everything come to life!”

“Render” will last about an hour followed by a short intermission, and the evening will conclude with “Alone Together.”

“The audience can expect something that hopefully inspires them,” Dodd said of “Alone Together.” “I feel like everyone can relate to searching for personal identity and understanding friendships and that’s what the show is about.”

“‘Alone Together’ has a message that everyone needs to hear and experience,” Hawking agreed. “It will tug at your heart strings and allow you to be thankful for the relationships you have in your life,”

Eric Phillips, chair of Ouachita’s Department of Theatre Arts, said, “It deals with some larger issues that concern us as modern humans in an uncertain world but also deals with issues that are more connected with the college student context, especially college students in a small, faith-based school.”

The Muse Project allows students to submit their proposals to the Department of Theatre Arts, work with their peers to create the show and then present their work for the Ouachita community.

“The important part of this year’s Muse Project is that student writers are getting to see their work produced with the help of other students,” Phillips explained. “The collaboration of playwrights and directors is where a lot of new work for students is happening.”

“Getting a chance to have my script put on a stage is surreal,” Dodd noted. “It’s been amazing to know this department trusts me enough to write a show. Overall, I feel encouraged and just lucky to even be doing this.”

“The OBU community should come to support their friends and fellow students,” Phillips said about the production, “and to have a good time seeing student work and enjoying some good stories.”

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 boxoffice@obu.edu.