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OUACHITA
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



NEWS

For Immediate Release

Ouachita to present French comedy *The Learned Ladies* Nov. 3-8

By Mattie Alexander

October 20, 2016

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

ARKADELPHIA, Ark.—The Ouachita Baptist University Department of Theatre Arts will present the fall play *The Learned Ladies* on Nov. 3-5 and 7-8 at 7:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 6.

The French comedy, written by Molière, is a satire on academic pretention, female education and precociousness. Written in the late 17th century, *The Learned Ladies* originally was written in French and later translated into English. The OBU production will feature a translation by Richard Wilbur. The play follows the story of two young lovers who must overcome the conflicting views of the young girl's parents in order to be married.

Director Drew Hampton, assistant professor of theatre arts, said, "My main goal for the acting in this production is to balance being believable and entertaining."

Hampton affirmed how exciting it was to experiment with the material of the play. "There have been several sections of the play where, because of the cast we have, I have been very trusting to say, 'At this moment you decide what you want it to be,'" Hampton said. "There has been no shortage of laughter during any of our rehearsals."

For many Ouachita theatre students, this genre of play is a new experience. "This is the first comedy of manners I've ever done," said Anna Valdez, a junior musical theatre major from Terrell, Texas. "The nature of the play encourages me to make bigger, more comedic choices and edge away from my normal sense of realism." Valdez is playing the role of Henriette, the female love interest.

"I don't think I've ever studied the text of a show as much as I have with this one," said Michael Perè, a junior musical theatre major from Roland, Ark. Perè is playing the role of Clitandre, the male love interest. "I've spent a lot of time not just memorizing the lines, but focusing on the pattern of stressed syllables, looking up words that I don't understand and pinpointing exactly what my character is doing."

Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased from the JPAC Box Office weekdays from 1-5 p.m. Tickets also may be purchased online at www.obu.edu/boxoffice. Current Ouachita students may receive one ticket upon presentation of their student ID at the box office. For more information, call the box office at (870) 245-5555 during business hours.

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