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NEWS



For immediate release

Ouachita's Department of Theatre Arts to present "A Servant to Two Masters"

By Sierra Hoss

October 31, 2022

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

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – Ouachita Baptist University's Department of Theatre Arts will present "A Servant to Two Masters" from Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 17-19, and Monday, Nov. 21, at 7:30 p.m. in Verser Theatre. A matinee performance is set for Sunday, Nov. 20 at 2:30 p.m.

Written by Carlo Goldoni in 1746 and adapted by David Turner and Paul Lapworth, "A Servant to Two Masters" is a comedy that tells the story of Truffaldino, a hungry servant who, upon realizing that working for two masters could ensure him a greater supply of food, tries to do the job of two men while working desperately to conceal that fact from both employers.

The production is directed by Ouachita alumna Shelby-Allison Hibbs, executive director of The Studio Theatre in Sherwood, Ark. Hibbs earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in directing from Baylor University and has worked extensively among theatre companies in the Dallas, Texas, area as a performer, playwright, director and producer. Through her work with Echo Theatre in Dallas, she received the 2014 Outstanding New Play award from the Dallas/Fort Worth Theatre Critics Forum and the 2015 Steve Lovett Award for Outstanding New Work by a Local Playwright from "The Column," a Dallas-based publication honoring excellence in theatre.

"It's been wonderful to reconnect with my professors and work with current students, who have been so inventive and energetic in every rehearsal," Hibbs said. "Working on this show has been an absolute joy, and Ouachita should be proud of the current talent in the theatre department."

"Shelby is awesome to work with because she collaborates with the actors and allows us to make choices and be creative," said Maddy Moore, a junior musical theatre and theatre arts double major from Mesquite, Texas, who plays Pantalone.

"The Servant of Two Masters" draws on the tradition of commedia dell'arte, a genre developed in Italy the 16th-18th centuries in which masked actors improvise from a plot outline based on themes associated with stock characters and situations. Moore said that being part of the cast is teaching her a lot about performing this early form of professional theatre.

"Everyone in the cast brings their own personalities to the show," she added, "which creates a loving and fun environment."

Erin Bagley, a senior musical theatre major from White Oak, Texas, is assistant director of the production. She said her duties are "watching Shelby and how she directs, works with the actors and communicates what she wants. It's good to have students work under a director to see how it's done, and it's a good experience to have someone mentor you in something that could be your job in the future."

Tickets are \$10 for individuals and \$8.50 each for groups larger than 10. They are available through the Ouachita Box Office, online at www.obu.edu/boxoffice or in person weekdays from 1-5 p.m. Current Ouachita students may receive one free ticket with their student ID. For more information, contact the Ouachita Box Office at (870)245-5555.

CAST:

Maddy Moore as Pantalone
Isabella Owen as Clarice
Julia Letcher as Dottore
Mac Ricks as Silvio
Amaya Hardin as Beatrice
Noah Warford as Florindo
Annslee Clay as Brighella
Payton Mixon as Smeraldina
Kinder Hinrichs as Truffaldino
Abby Burlison as a Porter
Blythe Hutchison as a Waiter
Hayley Johnson as a Waiter
Shelby Tripcony as a female swing
Jonah Morgan as a male swing

CREW:

Assistant Director – Erin Bagley
Costume Designer – Kelsey Looney, visiting assistant professor of theatre arts at Ouachita
Lighting Designer – Brynlee Beams
Lighting – Thomas Lilley
Scenic Designer – Eric Phillips, chair of Ouachita's Department of Theatre Arts
Stage Manager – Sarah Franklin
House Manager – Abigail Gaddis
Publicity Manager – Sierra Hoss
Board Operator – Ray Medina
Build – Mikenzie Blase
Lobby Design – Grace Woodward (crew head), Tom Huston, and Autumn Walters

Costume – Marion Webb (crew head), Eli Butler, Tamia Haney, Tyranni Hubbard, and Jonah Morgan

Make-up – Kenzie Burks (crew head) and Sara Kate Cole

Shifting and Properties – Thomas Lilley (crew head); Savannah Staggs and Elexis Lunsford