ISU Theatre press release

ISU Theatre stages the tale of 1,001 stories in “The Arabian Nights”

AMES AMES, Iowa – The 1,001 stories of a young bride that feature genies, jesters, thieves and kings highlight ISU Theatre’s production of “The Arabian Nights” on stage at Fisher Theater at Iowa State University beginning Nov. 5.

The story by playwright Mary Zimmerman is a sensitive adaptation of the medieval Middle-East literary epic "The Book of the Thousand Nights and One Night." A Persian sultan, King Shahryar, whose first wife was unfaithful, mistrusts all women. To delay her execution, his beautiful young bride, Scheherazade, tells him a story on their first night together and begins a second one. The sultan eagerly awaits the conclusion of the story the following night. After 1,001 nights of stories of honor, revenge, humor and fantasy, he makes her his queen.

"The piece is scripted as a narrative. Sometimes it’s a story within a story within a story," said guest director egla Birmingham, a professor of theatre at Western Illinois University. "This play celebrates the power that stories, or fiction or parables, have to transform us; like Shahryar, we have the capacity to be changed."

"The Arabian Nights" gives us a good look at a medieval culture during the Islamic Golden Age, said Birmingham. "It's a time when the culture was the richest center in the world. I want to celebrate that culture," she said, adding that this adaptation of "The Arabian Nights" is true to the original tale.

Heading the cast of ISU students are Brittny Rebhuhn as Scheherazade, Chris King as King Shahryar, Katherine Taylor as Dunyazad and Austin Kopsa as Harun al-Rashid.

"The Arabian Nights" will take place in Fisher Theatre, which will be decorated to resemble the interior of a large tent. Performances are Nov. 5, 6, 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 7 and 14 at 2 p.m. Single tickets: Adults $15, Seniors $13, Students $8. Tickets are available through TicketMaster, the Iowa State Center Ticket Office in Ames or at the door before the performance.

For more information, visit the ISU Theatre website: www.theatre.iastate.edu/.

Publicity photo available upon request.

For Immediate Release
HOME TOWN INFORMATION

Chris King is a senior in performing arts from Des Moines
Jeff White is a junior in performing arts from Mount Vernon
Shawn O'Hern is a freshman in aerospace engineering from Sergeant Bluff
Stephen Haydon is a junior in performing arts from Ankeny
Kyle Phillips is a senior in performing arts from Johnston
John Shang is a freshman in biology from Spirit Lake
Blake Gibbons is an open option freshman from Jefferson
Josh Ster is a sophomore in performing arts from Marion
Drew McCubbin is a sophomore in history from Manson
Brittny Rebhuhn is a sophomore in performing arts from Storm Lake
Katherine Taylor is a senior in agronomy from Des Moines
Sara Jensen is a junior in performing arts from Plymouth, MN
Shalika Khindurangala is a freshman in genetics from Adams, MN
Tabitha Locke is a sophomore in German from Richfield, MN
Vicky Stafford is a junior in performing arts from Elkhart
Catherine Glidden is a sophomore in performing arts from Big Lake, MN
Amanda Jorgensen is a junior in apparel, merchandising, design, and production from Otsego, MN