THEATRE PRESS RELEASE

ISU Theatre opens “Chekhov Short Stories” in the M-Shop

AMES, Iowa – ISU Theatre’s new adaptation of Chekhov’s Short Stories will open in the Memorial Union Maintenance Shop February 9 and run just one weekend.

The play is an adaptation based on two of Anton Chekhov’s short stories: “The Kiss” and “The Lady with the Lapdog” and incorporates subsequent short stories and sections from various other Chekhov works.

Since September, cast members have collaborated, exploring a spectrum of Chekhov’s plays, short stories, and letters to develop a play that focuses less on staging effects and focuses on the words and works of the original author. Various types of music connect the short stories and material from works such as the plays Three Sisters, Uncle Vanya, and The Seagull to develop a finished performance.

The development process was influenced by Foss’ experiences several years ago exploring Chekhov’s works when he trained and performed as part of the Moscow Art Theatre School. Foss says that the play Chekhov Short Stories “. . . Remains true to Chekhov’s voice, while allowing members of the ensemble to take risks.”

Elements of the play will be recognizable to those familiar with Chekhov, while making the material accessible to those unfamiliar with his work.

Ensemble members who have developed and will be performing in the play are Michael Brandt (a senior in performing arts from Council Bluffs), Kathleen Hoil (a senior in performing arts from Davenport), Kelsey Kovacevich (a senior in performing arts from Edgewood, Washington), Ben Millar (a senior in music from Ankeny), Nick Neal (a junior in performing arts from Urbandale), Ethan Peterson (a junior in performing arts from Ankeny), Dan Poppen (an open option freshman in liberal arts and sciences from Sioux City), Brittny Rebhuhn (a senior in performing arts from Storm Lake), Heather Smith (a senior in performing arts and music from Ankeny), Madison Welterlen (a senior in performing arts from Boone), and Jeff White (a senior in performing arts from Mount Vernon).

Chekhov Short Stories will be performed in the Memorial Union Maintenance Shop February 9, 10, and 11 at 7:30 p.m. and February 12 at 2 p.m. Tickets are $16 for adults, $14 for seniors, and $8 for students. Tickets can be purchased through the Memorial Union Maintenance Shop Box Office in person or by calling 515-294-8349 Monday through Friday 11 a.m.-5 p.m., on line through midwesttix.com, or at the door before the performance. Due to limited seating, advanced purchase is strongly suggested.

For more information, e-mail isutheatre@iastate.edu, visit www.theatre.iastate.edu, or call 515-294-2624.

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