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An Ideal Husband

Department of Theatre, Florida International University

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AN IDEAL HUSBAND
by Oscar Wilde

Directed by Phillip M. Church
September 26 through October 5, 2014
Wednesday - Saturday 8PM • Sunday 2PM

HERBERT AND NICOLE WERTHEIM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
MAINSTAGE THEATRE
10910 SW 17th St., Miami, FL 33199

FIU Theatre
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE • THE ARTS
theatre.fiu.edu
TO ALL OUR PATRONs

Students, faculty, staff and community

WELCOME TO THE 2014 – 2015 SEASON!

On behalf of the Department of Theatre at Florida International University allow me to thank you for attending this performance. We truly appreciate your interest and continuing support. 2014 – 2015 is poised to be a crackerjack of a season! First up is Oscar Wilde’s “An Ideal Husband”, and for those familiar with his hilarious comedy, “The Importance of Being Earnest” there is an interesting surprise in store. In a move to disengage from the world of melodrama, Wilde developed “a new play about modern life” in which he contrasted the worlds of social opinion against the dark interior of the human condition. Following in October will be “Juanita’s Statue”, by Anne Garcia-Romero, directed by Michael Yawney. A play that looks at the reversal roles of a female Don Juan. “Juanita’s Statue” is this year’s entry into the prestigious Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Thanks to the continuing generosity of Dean Brian Schriner and the College of Architecture + the Arts, we have been able to take students to KC ACTF competing against some of the strongest schools in the region. Citations for excellence in all areas of production have been consistently awarded to our students and faculty, bringing FIU hard-earned kudos on the national stage. The spring semester will offer a production of “Six Characters in Search of an Author” by Luigi Pirandello, adapted by Steve Moulds, directed by Wayne Robinson. Pirandello’s acclaimed post-WWII play analyzing the existential questions of reality and fiction makes this work contemporary in any age and will leave you with plenty to discuss long after the curtain falls. Finally, to round out the season the department has engaged professional actor and director Matt Glass to direct Neil Simon’s uproarious farce, “Rumors” and yes – just as the title might suggest, you are in for a night of guessing whodunit. It has been a long time since the department presented a play by Neil Simon and this production is sure to remind us of exactly why Simon earned the tribute of being one of America’s greatest comedy playwrights.

Besides our main season we offer you an exciting dramatized staged reading of “The Hampton Years” by Washington DC playwright, Jaqueline Lawton. Led by an FIU Theatre cast, this play is a part of a joint effort between the Center for Humanities in an Urban Environment, the Department of English, Coral Gables Museum and GablesLive. The play focuses on the pivotal years at the Hampton Institute, Virginia, during WWII and explores the development of African-American artists John Biggers and Samella Lewis under the tutelage of Austrian-Jewish refugee painter and educator, Viktor Lowenfeld. In February 2015 we will hold our annual New Playwrights Festival and, as always in April we offer the work of our graduating seniors as they showcase their Senior Projects, original solo-performances and/or design portfolios to which all our patrons are invited with free admission.

Finally, last year CARTA entered into two significant public/private partnerships; with Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd (RCCL) and multiple Carbonell Award-winning Gablestage. With RCCL’s presence on FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus, aided by generous scholarship opportunities, internships and workshops and with a new educational partnership with Gablestage due to take up residence at a future reconstructed Coconut Grove Playhouse, a globally-connected MFA theatre program will finally take shape in South Florida. There is little doubt that the Department of Theatre is ready to turn the corner by becoming a truly national presence, one that will enrich its students while ultimately giving back to a community that remains eager to experience an ever-widening and diverse cultural experience in theatre. We thank you again for your attendance and support.

SHAKESPEARE IN STRATFORD:
STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM
SUMMER 2015!

The Department of Theatre announces the tenth annual SHAKESPEARE IN STRATFORD/LONDON Study Abroad Program. Summer B Semester. Bed & breakfast in Stratford-Upon-Thames, attend five plays by the Royal Shakespeare Company, Globe Theater & West End productions, visit Shakespeare’s Birthplace, Anne Hathaway’s Cottage, Warwick Castle, Blenheim Palace and a day trip to the City of Oxford. Experience education through a thrilling and unforgettable cultural immersion.

For more information call: Phillip M. Church 305-348-3358 or visit: HTTP://THEATRE.FIU.EDU
Sunday Sidebar Series

A sidebar contains additional commentary on a literary work, usually set to the side of the text. Be a part of our Sunday Sidebar Series and engage with the director and cast in lively talkback sessions that explore the building of a production, the play's themes and personal commentary from the artists involved.

Front and Center
Arnold Bueso, born and raised in Miami, has always been a talented artist who believes that performance design is so much more than simply décor. He strives to make his work interactive. Arnold graduated from FIU Theatre in 2004, with a BFA in Design and travelled for a year, before continuing his education at Ohio’s University of Athens, where he earned an MFA in scenography. He is currently an assistant Professor of Theatre Design and Production at Borough of Manhattan Community College, Cuny. Arnold has experience in the areas of drafting, scenic, costume and lighting design and has worked in theatre, film, broadcast media and experimental media. Regionally, he has worked with the Brooklyn Ballet, StudioEIS, Performa and The Brooklyn Museum. Internationally, Arnold’s work has toured the United Kingdom, The United Arab Emirates and Prague’s Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space, which is considered the largest scenography event in the world. Among his many theatre credits, he had the wonderful opportunity to work with costume designer, William Ivey Long for the Broadway performances of Front and Center (2007) and Young Frankenstein (2007). The Department of Theatre is very proud to call Arnold one of our own and we wish him continued success.

Alpha Psi Omega
Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Society is a collegiate society which encourages academic and professional success amongst college theatre students. The Theatre Department at Florida International University is pleased to announce that we are currently in the process of establishing a chapter of Alpha Psi Omega. Approximately 50 students have already signed up and are anxiously waiting for the chapter to take off. The requirements to become a member are: 2 semesters of work on productions at the FIU Theatre Department and a minimum 2.5 GPA. If you have any questions about becoming a member, getting involved with the chapter's upcoming activities, or partnering with the chapter, please email Luisa Rodriguez at lulusings@bellsouth.net.

Merchandise and Concessions!
Support our theatre students and stop by the concessions stand for snacks and beverages. At the same time, why not consider buying an FIU Theatre T-Shirt, hoodie or polo shirt for yourself or as a gift?
All proceeds directly benefit student activities and conferences.

Key chains $4 Magnets $4 Buttons $2 Tape Measures $1 Coffee Mugs $10 Hats $10 Flashlights $5 Water Bottles $5 T-Shirts $15 Sweatshirts & hoodies $25

AND MORE

Department of Theatre Faculty & Staff
Phillip M. Church, Department Chairperson
Jesse Dreikosen, Head of Design and Production
Wayne E. Robinson Jr., Head of Performance
Michael Yawney, Dramaturgy
Lesley Ann Timlick, Voice
Daniel Mitan, Stage Combat
Rebecca Covey, Voice
Tony Galaska, Lighting
Chris Goslin, Technical Director
Geordan Gottlieb, Asst. Technical Director
Robert Duncan, Technical Production Assistant
Marianna Murray, Office Manager
Paulette Rivera, Office Assistant
Natasha Neckles, Marketing/Publicity
Kirstie Gothard, Events & Operations Manager
Gaby Lopez, Assistant Events Manager

Adjuncts
Stephen Neal
Israel Garcia
Ivan Lopez
Crystal Patient
Janet Raskin
Aaron Alpern
Notes from the Director

Oscar Wilde (1854–1900) termed his third play, “An Ideal Husband” as “a new play about modern life”, and modern life at that time was nothing if not ablaze with innovation and social change. The turn of the century was a heady time for poets, novelists and playwrights. The industrial revolution was in full swing. Who would have thought that Victorian curiosity would begin the march of science toward our current digitally-driven society? For those who relate to Oscar Wilde through his scintillating comedy, “The Importance of Being Earnest” his darker, more Machiavellian play, “An Ideal Husband”, will come as something of a surprise. Along with experimentation and invention came the psychological novel and by extension, the psychological drama spurring Wilde into the exploration of “a new play about modern life”. The “pause”, a stage direction with which we have grown accustomed today, was, in Wilde’s time, a rare experience for Victorian audiences. The very idea of a character taking time to connect with inner thoughts and feelings was, to say the least, disquieting. Melodrama (a drama with melody or music) was the accepted mode of performance. Action-packed domestic situations, unrequited love, neglect and abandonment, death-defying acts of bravery and a healthy dose moral instruction marked many of the plays at that time. As the study of psychology took hold in Europe, novelists and playwrights began to explore the deeper layers of man’s condition. The private “self” began to expose itself in public. Being a man who lived a dualistic life, married with children, while besotted by the angelic innocence of the young Lord Alfred Douglas, Oscar Wilde was no exception. Hounded and brought to trial for sodomy by Alfred Douglas’s father, Lord Queensbury, the founder of boxing’s “Queensbury Rules”, Wilde was sentenced to two years labor. Like David Bowie and Andy Warhol in recent times Wilde was seen as the pop idol of his day. However, the once-leader of the “aesthetic movement” that espoused living the life of beauty through art for art’s sake, he ended his life at age 34, exiled, alone and impoverished in Paris. A literary work “An Ideal Husband” reflects as strong a duality as Wilde’s own character, suspended between melodrama, comedy and what we have come to know today as the psychological thriller. As with his other works, many personal threads of Wilde’s life are liberally woven throughout the play. Never have there been a novelist and playwright so self-reflected in his own work as Oscar Wilde. To enable you to recognize the parallels between Wilde’s life and “An Ideal Husband” we invite you to visit the display units outside the theater.

Phillip M. Church

The Rick and Margarita Tonkinson Lobby

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of the Department of Theatre we wish to extend our thanks and gratitude to Rick and Margarita Tonkinson.

Rick is the President of Tonkinson Financial. He and Margarita met while he was a Peace Corps volunteer in Columbia, and they have been married for more than 30 years. Their involvement with FIU extends over three decades, and Rick has recently been appointed Chair of the Dean’s Leadership Advisory Board for CARTA.

The Tonkinson’s generous leadership gift, recognized through the naming of the Theatre lobby, will provide scholarships for CARTA students. Rick’s personal commitment to higher education stems from working his way through school at night to receive both an MBA and a Master’s degree in Public Administration.

FIU is fortunate to be included in Rick and Margarita’s philanthropic vision, which supports many South Florida organizations. We are deeply grateful for Rick and Margarita’s generosity, commitment, and leadership in achieving CARTA’s World’s Ahead vision.

www.theatre.fiu.edu
Public and Private Partnerships

The College of Architecture + The Arts and The Department of Theatre are proud to announce two significant community partnerships aligned to benefit our students and the future of the pre-professional theatre training program.

In the spring of 2015, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. (RCCL) will be taking up residence in their new 130,000 square foot production, rehearsal and performance facility on FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus and with it comes generous scholarship support, together with professional workshops and technical internships. The Department of Theatre extends its gratitude to RCCL’s administration and staff for making this partnership possible. We are excited to see where performance and production will lead us on the high seas.

Last year, award winning theatre company Gablestage was tapped to take up residence in a future, newly renovated Coconut Grove Playhouse and the Department of Theatre is to be the Playhouse’s educational partner. For many years, South Florida has been in need of a permanent MFA theatre program. FIU Theatre now has the opportunity to develop such a program, serving graduates from across the country, while supporting our own local secondary school teachers. An FIU/Gablestage/Coconut Grove Partnership guarantees the region added prestige, drawing attention to the ever-expanding cultural life of Miami.

We encourage all our patrons of the arts to support Royal Caribbean Cruises and Gablestage when considering your next vacation or theatergoing plans.

FIU Theatre is proud to announce the upcoming production of our community partner Gablestage

Artistic Director Joseph Adler

Be sure to support this Carbonell winning Equity company
For tickets call (305) 446-1116

Special Thanks

Dean Brian Schriner, College of Architecture + The Arts
Dr. William Hipp and Dr. Joel Galand, School of Music
Marilyn Skow, Retired Chair/Artistic Director, Department of Theatre
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