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Lindenwood University - Campus News

Theatre to Present Dark Comedy 'The Pillow Man'

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The Lindenwood University Theatre Department will present the dark comedy The Pillow Man at 7:30 p. m. on June 16, 17, and 18 in the Emerson Black Box Theater on the Lindenwood campus.

General admission tickets are available for \$10 at the Lindenwood Box Office (636-949-4433) and online at www.lindenwood.edu/center. The Box Office and the Emerson Theater are located in the university's J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts, at 2300 West Clay St., just west of First Capitol in St. Charles.

The play, by Martin McDonagh, is a master's thesis project of Jason Puff, who will portray the lead role. It is directed by Nicholas Kelly, of the Lindenwood Theatre faculty.

The winner of the 2004 Lawrence Olivier Award for Best New Play and the 2005 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Foreign Play, The Pillow Man is set in an unnamed totalitarian state, where a writer, Katurian (Puff), is being interrogated by police about the gruesome content of his short stories and their similarities to a series of child murders.

The result is an examination of the very nature and purpose of art—does art influence violence, or does violence influence art? The play includes adult language, violent subject matter, and depictions of smoking.

"This is a piece that I had read two years ago, and instantly wanted to produce it," Kelly said. "It's such an interesting and suspenseful story. It's the kind of role that Jason has never played, and it will give him plenty to research and will stretch him as an actor. I'm honored and excited that Jason asked me to do this project with him."

The cast also includes Michael Juncal, Shane Bosillo, Wes Jenkins, Parth Patel, Katy Osantowske, Danica Nalepa, and Nathaniel Carlson. The stage manager is Katie Ritter, assisted by Sarah Thompson. Lighting and sound design are by Kyler Greene and Sarah Thompson, respectively, with Krista Tettaton on props. Set design is by Brian Paladin, and costume design is by Katie Donovan.

The Theatre Department will present a second summer play, John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men on July 28-30 in the Emerson Black Box Theater. Ticket prices are also \$10 for that production and are available in the Lindenwood Box Office and on the Scheidegger Center website.