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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NU THEATRE ANNOUNCES ITS 53rd SEASON**

**Niagara University, N.Y. (September 15, 2016)** –From October through May, Niagara University Theatre’s 53rdseason of theatre productions promises a diverse collection of entertainment options to suit a variety of tastes.

Steve Braddock, director of Niagara University Theatre said, “We are excited to begin the season with **The Macbeth Insurgency (Shakespeare Deconstructed)** adapted and directed by Doug Zschiegner. This contemporary take on Macbeth, a 21st century, multi-media approach to Shakespeare’s themes, will make Macbeth resonate in a very real way for a modern audience.  An evening of vibrant theatre, brimming with connections to global events that are vivid and palpable, will provide our patrons with the opportunity for lively, insightful conversation."

“The season continues with **Stage Door** by George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber; the hilarious musical **The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** by William Finn, Rachel Sheinkin, and Rebecca Feldman; the annual **Short Play Festival;** Sarah Ruhl’s **Dead Man’s Cell Phone;**  the NU Players’ production of **The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds** by Paul Zindel; Suzan Zeder’s **Mother Hicks**; and finally, the multiple Tony-Award winning musical, **The Pajama Game** by George Abbott, Richard Bissell, Richard Adler and Jerry Ross.”

“The entire season will be produced in the renovated William P. and Marie Leary Theatre in the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre—with the one exception of our annual collaboration with the Castellani Art Museum.”

“While many area theaters focus on producing one type of theater, here at NU our season of theater is about variety and tremendous value.  With our $3.1 million renovation several years behind us, our first class facility can offer audience amenities which add to the entertainment experience:  a circular driveway drop off, a computerized box-office, an elevator, air-conditioning, comfortable seats with arm and leg room, and an audience lounge for pre-show and intermission – complete with a photographic mural spotlighting NU Theatre productions from the 1960s through 2010. We invite theatre-goers from across Western New York and Southern Ontario to join us for our 53rd year of theatre performances featuring theatre majors from across the country. These students work under the direction of our award-winning faculty, comprised of a professional team of directors/actors, a choreographer, a stage combat expert, vocal instructors/musicians, a costume/make-up designer, a costume technologist and scenic and lighting designers.”

From October 13 – 17, **The Macbeth Insurgency (Shakespeare Deconstructed)** Adapted and directed by NU’s own associate professor and associate director of NU Theatre, Doug Zschiegner, *The Macbeth Insurgency* takes center stage at NU’s Leary Theatre. Shakespeare wrote the murderous Macbeths to ask the same questions about the terrorist plots and religious divisions of his day. And he put history’s most famous upwardly mobile couple into a world of suspicion, secret attacks and double-talk that looks a lot like ours.

In the 400th year since his death, this adaptation takes apart Shakespeare and adds contemporary staging, video and movement for a fast-paced thriller that asks old questions in a new way.

**The Macbeth Insurgency (Shakespeare Deconstructed) will be on stage in the Leary Theatre within the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre, Clet Hall, at 7:00 pm on Thurs. Oct. 13 and Mon. Oct. 17 and at 7:30 pm on Fri. Oct. 14 and Sat. Oct. 15, with 2:00 pm matinees on Sat. Oct.15 and Sun. Oct. 16.**

From **November 3 – 13**, the stage will be set for possibilities and promises as NU presents **Stage Door** by George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferer. Directed by Adjunct professor of speech for the actor, Amanda Lytle Sharpe, *Stage Door* is a legitimate valentine to the theatre, paying tribute to those who experience the glories and heartbreaks of the profession. Illuminating the ever-present tension between theatre and film, as well as the show business power structures built on sex and gender roles, *Stage Door* offers a fresh perspective on the future by showing us our past.

**Stage Door will be staged at the Castellani Art Museum on the NU campus, at 7:00 pm on Thurs Nov. 3 & 10, and at 7:30 pm on Fri. Nov. 4 & 11 and Sat. Nov. 5 & 12, with 2:00 pm matinees on Sat. Nov. 5 & 12 and Sun. Nov. 6 & 13.**

From **December 1 – 11**, winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book**, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee** by William Finn, Rachel Sheinkin, and Rebecca Feldman, is the hilarious tale of six prepubescent, misfit contestants, vying for the championship of a lifetime, overseen by grown-ups who barely managed to escape childhood themselves. Featuring an appealing cast of lovable characters, a comic yet touching book and a truly bright and lively score, the play captures the anguish, elation and heartache that make growing up so excruciatingly wonderful.

**The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee will be on stage in the Leary Theatre within the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre, Clet Hall, at 7:00 pm on Thurs. Dec. 1 and Thurs. Dec 8. The musical will be presented at 7:30 pm on Fri. Dec 2, Sat. Dec. 3 and Fri. Dec. 9. In addition, 2:00 pm matinees will be held on Sat. Dec 3, Sun. Dec 4 (with post-show discussion) and Sun. Dec. 11.**

Comedies, dramas, and everything in-between from **January 20- 28** when NU presents their annual **Short Play Festival –** a smorgasbord of ten-minute, student directed plays. If one is not to your taste, you only have to wait 10 minutes until the next one.

**Some of the plays contain adult situations and language.**

The **Short Play Festival** will be on stage in the **Leary Theatre within the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre, Clet Hall, at 7:30 p.m. on Fri. Jan. 20 (Cycle A) and 2:00 p.m. on Sat. Jan. 21 (Cycle A); on Sat. Jan. 21 at 7:30 pm (Cycle B) and 2:00 pm on Sun. Jan. 22 (Cycle B); and at 7:30 pm on Fri. Jan. 27 (Cycle C) and 2:00 pm on Sat. Jan. 28 (Cycle C).**

The wildly imaginative comedy **Dead Man’s Cell Phone** by Sarah Ruhl, demonstrates the ways in which commemorate the dead, and how the memories changes us. Directed by Physical Theatre Adjunct, Trevor Copp and in collaboration with the Castellani Art Museum from **February 16-19***, Dead Man’s Cell Phone* is the journey of a woman forced to challenge her own assumptions about integrity, redemption, and the need to connect in a world fanatically preoccupied with technology.

**Dead Man’s Cell Phone** **will be on stage in the Leary Theatre within the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre, Clet Hall, at 7:00 pm on Thurs. Feb. 16, and at 7:30pm on Friday, Feb. 17 and Sat. Feb 18. A 2:00 pm matinee will be held on Sun. Feb. 19 (with post-show discussion).**

From **February 24-26** NU Player’s present an all student produced production of **The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds** by Paul Zindel. This poignant study of a bitter, spiteful widow and her two young daughters has been hailed as one of the most significant and touching plays of our time.

Young Tillie’s understanding of the fundamental scientific structure of the world keeps her sane. Free from her turbulent home life. Free from her mother’s endless need for attention. Could knowledge be a way of gaining her mother’s love? Can a science fair project show her mother that Tillie is more than just half a test-tube?

**The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds will be on stage in the Leary Theatre within the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre, Clet Hall, at 7:30pm on Friday, Feb 24 and Sat. Feb 25. Matinees will be held at 2:00 pm on Sat. Feb. 25 (with post show discussion) and Sun. Feb 26.**

**Mother Hicks,** by Suzan Zeder, from **March 23 – 27** is earth, and fire, and water, and blood, and tears… Directed by Director of NU Theatre, Steve Braddock, *Mother Hicks* is the inspiring folkloric story of three Depression-era outsiders: Girl, an orphan who is passed from home to home; Tuc, a young deaf man whose perceived weakness is really one of his great strengths; and Mother Hicks, a midwife whose unconventional methods have fearful townspeople believing her to be a witch. An evocative tale told through poetry and sign language, *Mother Hicks* illustrates our collective journey through life in search of belonging.

**Mother Hicks will be on stage in the Leary Theatre within the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre, Clet Hall, at 7:00 pm on Thurs. Mar. 23 and Mon. Mar. 27, and at 7:30pm on Friday, Mar. 24 and Sat. Mar. 25. A 2:00 pm matinee will be held on Sat. Mar. 25 and Sun. Mar. 26.**

Exploding with fun and nostalgic theatricality, NU Theatre tops off its 53rd season with an energetic production of **The Pajama Game** from **April 20 - 30**, directed by associate professor/choreographer Terri Filips Vaughan.

A golden age classic, *The Pajama Game* tells the story of Babe, a feisty pajama factory employee representative who meets her match in Sid, the shop superintendent. Overflowing with song, dance and pajamas, the conflicts between labor union and management provide a sparkling backdrop for the blossoming romance between the two employees.

Winner of **multiple TONY Awards** (including Best Musical) *The Pajama Game* is brimming with songs and dances that have become beloved musical theatre standards, including "Steam Heat" and "Hernando's Hideaway".

**The Pajama Game will be on stage in the Leary Theatre within the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre, Clet Hall, at 7:00 pm on Thurs. April 20 and Thurs. April 27. The musical will be presented at 7:30 pm on Fri. April 21, Sat. April 22 and Fri. April 28. In addition, 2:00 pm matinees will be held on Sat. April 22, Sun. April 23 (with post-show discussion) and Sun. April 30.**

On **Saturday, April 29**, the Friends of Niagara University Theatre will host the **32nd Annual Friends of Niagara University Theatre Gala** including a 4 p.m. production of **The Pajama Game** at the Leary Theatre within the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre, Clet Hall, and a cocktail reception, dinner and silent and live auction at the Niagara Falls Country Club. Tickets for the gala are $150 per person or $175 per person (Gala patrons). For more information about the Gala, please contact Niagara University Theatre at (716) 286-8483.

During the summer of 2017, NU Theatre will once again present **free children’s theatre for the community. Our N.U.R.T. (Niagara University Repertory Theatre) troupe will present a rotating repertoire of children’s stories during July and August.** Suitable for children ages three through 10, the N.U.R.T. troupe will perform in the air-conditioned Leary Theatre within the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre, Clet Hall, and in the Western New York community. In addition, NU Theatre will continue its tradition of presenting a free theatre-for-youth production. Locations, dates and times for performances will be announced in the spring.

**Ticket Information:** There are three ways to purchase tickets for NU Theatre productions:

**1) ONLINE**: We offer one of the lowest service fees online. Simply go to: http://theatre.niagara.edu/ to purchase your tickets, select your seat locations and print your tickets. Ticket packages make it simpler: you need only to input your personal information one time. Also, your preferred seat locations can be assigned to all ticket purchases (or the closest seats available). If you commit to a season subscription and order tickets for six productions, you will earn a 10 percent discount. If you order two or more productions during one transaction, you only have to input your personal information one time.

**2) IN PERSON**: Visit our box office in the lobby of the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre, Clet Hall:  Monday-Friday 2:30-5:30 p.m. and one hour prior to curtain.

**3) BOX OFFICE TELEPHONE AND EMAIL**: **PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW BOX OFFICE** **NUMBER!** Call 716-286-8685 or send an e-mail to [theatre@niagara.edu](https://webmail.niagara.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=c6748b56a25c41c8b1487c6f2543aa60&URL=mailto%3atheatre%40niagara.edu) Voicemail messages and emails are returned as soon as possible.

**Ticket prices for NU Theatre productions:**

**Plays & Readers’ Theater:** $15 general admission for adults; **$**10 for NU employees, NU alumni, Friends of NU Theatre, Seniors 62 and over; and Youth 21 and younger (non-NU)

**Musicals:** $20 general admission for adults; $15 for NU employees, NU alumni, Friends of NU Theatre, Seniors 62 and over; and Youth 21 and younger (non-NU)

**NU Players Present**: $8 for all audience members (No Student Rush Available and NU Students Pay for Tickets)**.**

**Tickets for NU Students:** NU Students with a valid NU ID are entitled to one ticket per main stage production and readers’ theater.

**Student Rush Policy**: Any non-NU student, 21 and younger, with a current student ID card, may be admitted free of charge when there are seats available. Such tickets will be distributed five minutes prior to curtain. To guarantee tickets, purchase a discounted Youth ticket for $10 - $15.

Media representatives who wish to schedule an interview or photography are asked to contact Steve Braddock, Director of Niagara University Theatre, at (716) 286-8329 or [sbraddock@niagara.edu](mailto:sbraddock@niagara.edu)

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