

ODYSSEY

By Homer

Adapted from the translation by Robert Fitzgerald and originally directed by Mary Zimmerman



7:30 P.M. Nov. 11 - 13 & 18-20 2:00 P.M. Nov. 14, 20 & 21, 2010

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music by John Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb, book by Ebb and Bob Fosse

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Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

By Edward Albee

Oct. 14-17 & 20-24, 2010

The Odyssey

by Homer, adapted and originally directed by Mary Zimmerman, adapted from the translation by Robert Fitzgerald

Nov. 11-14, 18-21, 2010

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Born Yesterday

by Garson Kanin

Jan. 27-30 & Feb. 2-6, 2011 Sponsored by Community Bank Mankato

Dracula

adapted by Hamilton Deane & John Balderston

Feb. 17-20 & 24-27, 2011

The Producers

adapted by Mel Brooks & Thomas Meehan from Brooks' 1968 film of the same name

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2010-2011 STUDIO SEASON

Copenhagen

by Michael Frayn Sept. 15-18, 2010

Evil Dead: The Musical

book & lyrics by George Reinblatt, music by Frank Cipolla, et al.

Dec. 1-4, 2010

A Coupla White Chicks Sitting Around Talking by John Ford Noonan

March 30-April 2, 2011

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Morgan Mallory, Deanne McDonald

Lauren Mikeal Parsons

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Adam Sahli, Angela Sahli

Joseph Skala, Joey West

* Nadine B. Andreas Teaching Assistant

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Paul J. Hustoles for information.

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

Department of Theatre & Dance

Presents

THE ODYSSEY

By Homer

Adapted and originally directed by Mary Zimmerman

Adapted from the translation of *The Odyssey* by Robert Fitzgerald

Nov. 11-14 & 18-21, 2010

Sponsored by Blethen, Gage & Krause, PLLP

Director **Paul J. Hustoles**

Music Composition & Sound Design Mike Croswell *

Scene Design
Tom Bliese *

Costume Design

Sound Design George E. Grubb

Lighting Design
Steven Smith

Production
Stage Manager
Matthew A. Gilbertson

THE ODYSSEY is produced through special arrangement with Bruce Ostler, BRET ADAMS, LTD., 448 West 44th St., New York, NY 10036 www.bretadamsltd.net

> Originally produced by The Goodman Theatre, Chicago, Illinois on September 17, 1999.

* Tom Bliese and Mike Croswell are Nadine B. Andreas Guest Artists.



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Cast of Characters

	Kim Steffen
Muse	Deanne McDonald
Poseidon	Tim Gagne
Zeus	David Wasylik
Hermes	Joseph B. Crook
Telemachus	Andy Gullikson
Antinous	J. Alexander Coe
Penelope	Megan Volkman-Wilson
Eurycleia	Laura D. Thaisen
	Adam Karal Sahli
Helen	Laura Otremba
Eteonus	Adam Moen
Eidothea	Emily Jansen
Proteus	Anthony DePoto
Calypso	Jessica Dougherty
	Clayton Oliver Rutschow
	Rodney Fair
Nausicaa	Emma Ottoson
Arete	Meredith Larson
Circe	Morgan Mallory
Elpenor	Jason Garton
-	Joey West
Laertes	Dustin Guy Jackson
1	Austin England, Jameson Pieper
-	Sarah Polis-Mares, Rudolph Searles III
	Natalie Schleusner, Sam Stoll

Setting

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In past years, their sponsorship has helped us bring to you: *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* (2005), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (2006-07), *Bus Stop* (2007), *Harvey* (2008) and *A Christmas Carol* (2009).

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"Sing in me, Muse, and through me tell the story..." Thus begins the famous epic poem of ancient Greece, *The Odyssey*, by Homer, composed around the end of the 8th century BC. Undoubtedly, the original was sung to appreciative crowds as they heard a tale of harrowing adventure, unmatched courage and undying love—a story of the ten-year journey that the king of Ithaca, the wily Odysseus, makes with his men (although he alone survives) back home after the Greeks' victory over the city of Troy (another ten-year adventure, earlier told by Homer in *The Iliad*).

Playwright/director Mary Zimmerman, who loves epic works and who turned other ancient stories into a Tony Award-winning medley called *Metamorphoses* (performed by Minnesota State Mankato in 2004), is back to her clever ways of condensing this astonishing tale into an evening's entertainment (with the help of the iconic translation by Robert Fitzgerald), which premiered at the Goodman Theatre, Chicago, in 1999. She performs this dramatalurgical feat by allowing the tale to be told through the guiding wisdom of the goddess Athena and the theatrical "trick" of having most of the acting company play dozens and dozens of characters (including gods, humans and animals). The result is theatrical magic—a timeless tale told in a timely fashion. A worthy tale of sin and redemption that is as potent and meaningful now as it has been for almost three millennia.

We are delighted to welcome back two old friends, as Andreas Artists in Residence, to help tell this tale: Scene Designer Tom Bliese and Music Composer/Sound Designer Michael Croswell.

Welcome to the journey, we wish you fair sailing toward your final destination, which might just be...home.

- PJH

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From 1977-2007, **Tom Bliese**, served as a professor and primary scene designer at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Currently, he is a freelance independent contractor and regular performer at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival. While at Mankato, he designed more than 150 productions, including: *Man of La Mancha, Urinetown, The Wizard of Oz, He Lived the Good Life* [original]; *Metamorphoses, Galileo, Arsenic and Old Lace, Steel Magnolias, Medea* and *Hamlet*.

Mike Croswell, earns most of his income composing original sound and music for theatrical productions. Over the last 20 years he has collaborated with professional theatre companies, universities, colleges, community groups and high schools. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Music Management from Minnesota State Mankato. While a student he composed music for *The Bacchae* (1988) and has returned twice to compose music for Theatre & Dance productions: *Metamorphoses* in 2004 and *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* in 2007.

We earnestly welcome them both home for *The Odyssey*.





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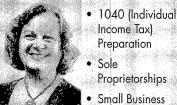
THE CAST

J. Alexander Coe (Antinous) is a senior BFA candidate in Musical Theatre from St. Paul who appeared last season in *Virgin Territory*, *Into the Woods*, *A Christmas Carol* and as "Feste" in *Twelfth Night*, for which he received his third Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship nomination. He has appeared on the Mainstage in *Miss Saigon*, *Harvey*, *Mame*, *Cats*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, was "Posner" in *The History Boys* and "Michael" in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, receiving Irene Ryan nominations for the last two. He made his HST debut in *The Music Man* (2008) and was in *Damn Yankees* (2009). He is the recipient of the 2010-11 Jane F. Earley Theatre Scholarship.

Joseph B. Crook (Hermes) is a senior BFA Acting candidate from Delano who appeared earlier this season as "Werner Heisenberg" in the Studio opener, Copenhagen, and last season in Twelfth Night and A Christmas Carol. Previously, he was in the Studio production of Rabbit Hole and on the Mainstage appeared in The History Boys, Hamlet, Miss Saigon and Harvey. In 2010, he was the partner of Region V KCACTF







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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response from a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

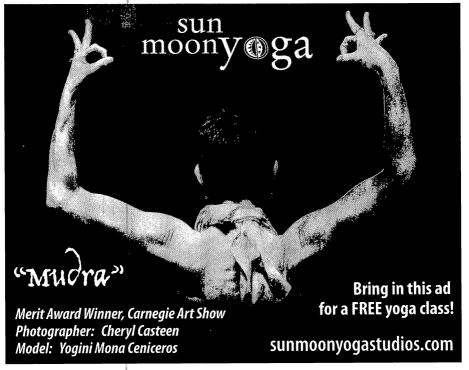
Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and also can be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John E Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2011.

Last year, more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship winner Lolly Foy and performed with her at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. He is the recipient of the 2010-11 Paul J. Hustoles Theatre Scholarship.

Anthony De Poto (Proteus) is a second-year MFA Acting candidate who made his Minnesota State Mankato debut as "Juror #11" in *Twelve Angry Men* and was "Weinberl" in *On the Razzle*, earning a KCACTF Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship nomination for each. Earlier this season he was "Niels Bohr" in the Studio opener, *Copenhagen*. Last year he also was in the Studio production *Virgin Territory*. From Danbury, CT, he received his BA in Theatre from Western Connecticut State University. He appeared in three off-Broadway plays, *Iphigenia*, *Songs For A New World* and *Savage Love/Tongues*. He also was in *Romeo and Juliet* at the 2007 Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Jessica Dougherty (Calypso) is a senior Theatre Arts major from Mankato who appeared earlier this season as "Margrethe Bohr" in the Studio opener, *Copenhagen*. She was "Morse" in last season's Studio opener, *One Flea Spare*, for which she earned a KCACTF Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship



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nomination, and was in *The Rocky Horror Show* and in *Virgin Territory* in the Studio. Previously she was in *Cloud Tectonics* in the Studio, and on the Mainstage was in *Lysistrata, Mame, Peter Pan, Gypsy, Cats, Hamlet* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. She made her Highland Summer Theatre debut in 2007 in *Bye Bye Birdie*, in 2008 was "Maud Dunlop" in *The Music Man* and in 2010 was "Cyndra" in *High School Musical*.

Austin England (Acolyte) is a sophomore Theatre Arts major from Maplewood who appeared last season in *A Christmas Carol*, *Twelfth Night* and *42nd Street*. Earlier this year he was "Aaron" in the Mainstage opener, *Chicago*. He was in the Department's 2010 children's theatre touring production of *Rikkie Recycle & the Eko-Kidz* and made his HST debut as a jock in *High School Musical* (2010).

Rodney Fair (Alcinous) is a first-year MFA Musical Theatre candidate from Chicago making his Minnesota State Mankato debut. He earned his undergraduate degree in Digital Media from the University of Minnesota Morris in May 2009. At Morris his favorite role was "Sour Kangaroo" in Seussical The Musical. After graduating, he worked with Climb Theatre and the Minneapolis Musical Theatre in its production of Big River.



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Timothy Gagne (Poseidon) is a senior Theatre and Mass Communications double-major from Roseville who appeared last season as "Pato" in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* in the Studio, "Juror #10" in *Twelve Angry Men* and "Orsino" in *Twelfth Night*. He made his Minnesota State Mankato stage debut in the Studio production of *Tobacco Road*.

Jason Garton (Elpenor) is a junior BFA Musical Theatre candidate from Casper, WY, who made his Minnesota State Mankato debut in *Into the Woods* and appeared in *A Christmas Carol*, *On the Razzle* and *42nd Street*. Earlier this season he was "Court Clerk" in *Chicago*. He also appeared in the 2010 touring children's theatre production of *Rikkie Recycle & The Eko-Kidz*. He transferred from Casper College. He made his HST debut as "Zeke Baylor" in *High School Musical* (2010). He is the recipient of the 2010-11 Mary Jo and Paul J. Hustoles Musical Theatre Scholarship.

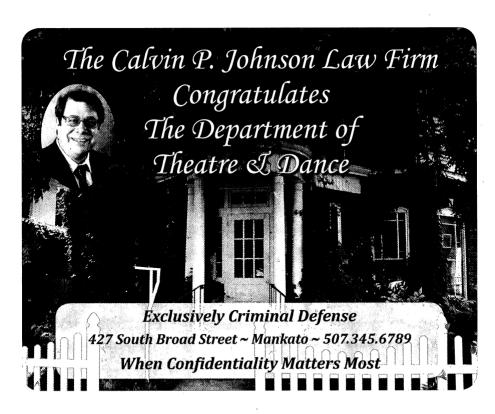
Andy Gullikson (Telemachus) of Minnetonka is a senior BFA Acting candidate who appeared last season as "Ray" in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* in the Studio. He made his Minnesota State Mankato stage debut in *Lysistrata* and followed that in the Studio production *Tobacco Road*. On the Mainstage he was in *Twelfth Night* and *A Christmas Carol*.

Continued on page 19

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Dustin Guy Jackson (Laertes) is a junior BFA Acting candidate from Sioux Falls who made his Minnesota State Mankato debut as "Juror #9" in *Twelve Angry Men* and then appeared in *On the Razzle*. In his home state, he appeared as a spokesman for the Falls Park Sound and Light Show and won a Superior State Actor Award for his portrayal of "B. B. Wolf" in *The Disappearance of the Three Little Pigs*.

Emily Jansen (Eidothea) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre candidate from St. Peter who appeared earlier this season as "June/Squish" in the Mainstage opener, *Chicago*. She made her Minnesota State Mankato debut in *A Christmas Carol* and was in *On the Razzle* and *42nd Street*. She also appeared in the 2010 department children's touring production of *Rikkie Recycle & the Eko-Kidz*.

Meredith Larson (Arete) is a senior Theatre Arts BFA Acting candidate who made her Minnesota State Mankato debut in the Studio production of *Wit*. She appeared most recently in the ensemble of *On the Razzle*, *A Christmas Carol* and as "Baker's Wife" in *Into the Woods*, receiving a KCACTF Irene Ryan nomination for the latter. She was in





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Harvey, Miss Saigon and Mame. She transferred from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. A native of Princeton, she made her HST debut as "Mrs. Squires" in *The Music Man* (2008).

Morgan Mallory (Circe) is a first-year MFA Musical Theatre candidate from Pocatello, ID, who is making her Minnesota State Mankato debut. While earning her BS degree in Dietetics from Brigham Young University, she played "The Witch" (and various other roles) in their production of *Grimm Tales*, for which she received a KCACTF Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship nomination. Other favorite roles include "Reno Sweeney" in *Anything Goes*, "Elizabeth Proctor" in *The Crucible* and "Susan" in *Company*.

Deanne McDonald (Muse) is a third-year MFA Musical Theatre candidate from Eagan, where she acted in several local films. She appeared last season as "Dorothy Brock" in 42nd Street, and was in On the Razzle and A Christmas Carol. She made her Minnesota State Mankato debut in the chorus of Miss Saigon and followed that as "Myrtle Mae Simmons" in Harvey, for which she received a KCACTF Irene Ryan nomination,





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Noises Off and Into the Woods. Deanne holds a BA in Theatre Arts from Augsburg College.

Adam Moen (Eteonus) is a junior BFA candidate in Musical Theatre from New Richland who appeared earlier this season as "Mary Sunshine" in the Mainstage opener, *Chicago*. Last season on the Mainstage he was in *On the Razzle* and *42nd Street*, and in the Studio was "Brad" in *The Rocky Horror Show*. A Minnesota State Mankato debut in *Miss Saigon* was followed by an appearance in *Mame*, both on the Mainstage. He was in the 2009 children's theatre touring production *Abiyoyo*. He is the recipient of the 2010-11 Joan and James Pengra Theatre Scholarship.

Laura Otremba (Helen) is a junior BFA Musical Theatre candidate from Andover who made her Minnesota State Mankato debut in *Into the Woods*, following that with *On the Razzle* and *42nd Street*. She appeared most recently as "Roxie Hart" in the Mainstage opener, *Chicago*, earning her first KCACTF Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship nomination. She also appeared in *The Rocky Horror Show* in the Studio. She transferred from Anoka Ramsey Community College. She made her HST debut as "Logainne Schwartzandgrubennier" in *The 25nd Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Continued on page 25



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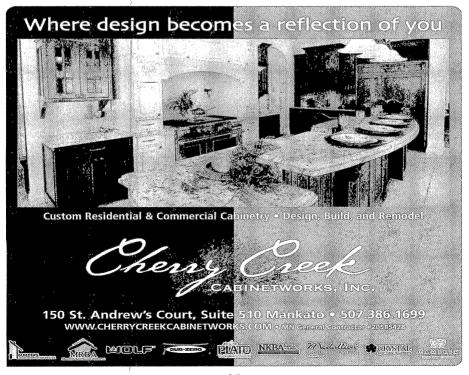
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and played "Sharpay" in *High School Musical* (2010). She is the 2010-11 recipient of the Jane L. Rush Theatre Scholarship.

Emma Ottoson (Nausicaa) is a junior BFA Musical Theatre candidate from Vadnais Heights who appeared most recently as "Stella" in the Mainstage opener, *Chicago*. Last year she was in *On the Razzle*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Into the Woods*. Previously she was in *Miss Saigon*, *Mame* and *Harvey* and was a member of the 2009 children's theatre touring production *Abiyoyo*. She is the 2010-11 recipient of the Florence and Raymond Sponberg Theatre Scholarship.

Jameson Pieper (Acolyte) of West St. Paul, is a senior BFA Acting candidate who made his Minnesota State Mankato debut in *Lysistrata* and then appeared in *The History Boys* and *Mame*. Earlier this season he was "Sergeant Fogerty" in the Mainstage opener, *Chicago*. Last season he was in *Twelve Angry Men*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *On the Razzle* and *42nd Street*. He transferred from Inver Hills Community College. He was in the Children's Theater of Minneapolis production of *High School Musical*.



Sarah Polis-Mares (Acolyte) is a sophomore Theatre/Dance double major from Albert Lea who made her Minnesota State Mankato Mainstage debut as "Betty/Dancer/Singer" in *42nd Street* and served as a Dance Captain for *Chicago*. She also appeared in the fall 2009 *Dancing Communities Concert*.

Clayton Oliver Rutschow (Odysseus) is a senior BFA in Acting candidate from Red Wing who appeared most recently as "Nick" in Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? earning an Irene Ryan nomination. Last season he was in Virgin Territory and The Rocky Horror Show in the Studio and On the Razzle on the Mainstage. He made his Minnesota State Mankato debut in Cats, following that with Mame, The History Boys, Harvey and Miss Saigon. He is a transfer student from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA. He made his HST debut in 2008 in the ensemble of Smokey Joe's Café and in The Music Man, returning in 2009 in Damn Yankees. He is the recipient of the 2010-11 Phyllis and Clif Kroon Musical Theatre Scholarship.

Adam Karal Sahli (Menelaus) is a first-year MFA Directing candidate from Aberdeen, SD, making his Minnesota State Mankato debut. Adam received his BA in Musical Theatre from Northern State University and will be directing *Frozen* in the Studio season in April. Past roles include "Beast" in *Beauty and the Beast*, "Carmen Ghia" in *The Producers*, "Orlando" in *As You Like It* and "Sid Sorokin" in *The Pajama Game*.

Natalie Schleusner (Acolyte) is a senior BFA Musical Theatre candidate from Rock Rapid, IA, who appeared last season as "Ann Reilly" in 42nd Street, "Little Red Ridinghood" in Into the Woods and in The Rocky Horror Show. She made her Minnesota State Mankato debut in Peter Pan, following that in One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Gypsy, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Cats, Mame and Miss Saigon. She appeared in the 2007 children's theatre touring production of Rumpelstiltskin.

Rudolph Searles III (Acolyte), who comes to Mankato by way of Casper College in Wyoming, is from Aurora, CO. He is a senior BFA Musical Theatre candidate who appeared earlier this season as "Fred Casely" in *Chicago* and last season in *42nd Street* and *Into the Woods* on the Mainstage and as "Frank-N-Furter" in *The Rocky Horror Show* in the Studio. He made his Minnesota State Mankato debut in *Miss Saigon* and followed that with *The History Boys* and *Mame*. He is the recipient of a 2010-11 Lee and Loretta Snilsberg Theatre Scholarship.

Kimberly Michelle Steffen (Athena) is a senior BFA Musical Theatre candidate from Spencer, IA, who appeared earlier this season as "Mona/Lipschitz" in *Chicago*. Last season she was in *On the Razzle* and *Into the Woods*, and was "The Ghost of Christmas Past" in *A Christmas Carol*

and "Peggy Sawyer" in 42nd Street, earning KCACTF Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship nominations for the last two. She made her Minnesota State Mankato debut in Miss Saigon and then was in Mame. She was a member of the 2009 children's theatre touring production Abiyoyo. She is the recipient of the 2010-11 Ted and Katy Paul Theatre Scholarship.

Sam Stoll (Acolyte) is a freshman Theatre Arts Generalist from Perham, MN, making his Minnesota State Mankato debut. Previous roles include "Prince" in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* and "Simeon" in *Joseph and the Amazing...*, both with Perham Community Musical Productions. He is the recipient of a 2010-11 Theatre Freshman Talent Grant.

Laura D. Thaisen (Eurycleia) is a senior Theatre Arts Generalist from Coon Rapids who made her stage debut as "Grandma" in *Tobacco Road*. She was Assistant Stage Manager for *Miss Saigon* and Production Stage Manager for *Harvey* on the Mainstage. She appeared as "McQueen" in Bemidji State University's production of *Urinetown* and in Coon Rapids was "Robin Starveling" in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, "Alma Hix" in *The Music Man* and "Ralph(ie)" in *Kiss Me*, *Kate*. She is the 2010-11 recipient of the Bunny Just Theatre Scholarship.

Megan Volkman-Wilson (Penelope) is a senior BFA Musical Theatre candidate from Minneapolis who appeared earlier this season as "Velma Kelly" in *Chicago* and last season in 42nd Street, On the Razzle, A Christmas Carol and as "Witch" in *Into the Woods*. She received a KCACTF Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship nomination for the latter, earning Semifinalist status at the January 2010 Region V Festival. She made her Minnesota State Mankato debut in Cats, following that with Thoroughly Modern Millie, Lysistrata and as "Vera Charles" in Mame, for which she received her first KCACTF Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship nomination. She made her HST debut in The Music Man (2008), following that as "Lola" in Damn



Yankees (2009). She is the 2010-11 recipient of the Emily Walter Musical Theatre Scholarship.

David J. Wasylik (Zeus) is a senior BFA Actor from Hastings who transferred from Inver Hills Community College and made his Minnesota State University debut in *Cloud Tectonics* in the Studio. Most recently he was "Zangler" in *On the Razzle* and "Juror #3" in *Twelve Angry Men*, earning KCACTF Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship nominations for both. He was a Regional Semifinalist the past two years, the first time for his role of "Kinesias" in *Lysistrata*. He also appeared in *The History Boys*.

Joey West (Abner Dillon) is a second-year MFA Acting candidate from Green River, WY, who made his Minnesota State Mankato debut in *Twelve Angry Men* and then was in *The Rocky Horror Show* and *On the Razzle*. He graduated from Southern Virginia University with a bachelor's degree in Music-Vocal Performance and Theatre Performance, and completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Acting from the Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts in Liverpool, England. He portrayed "Ammonasro" in *Aida* at Western Wyoming College.



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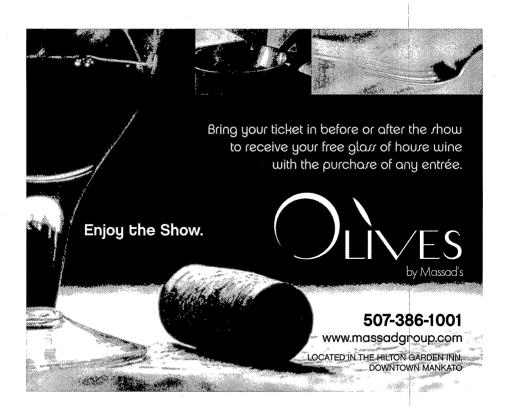
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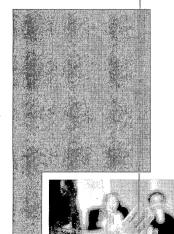


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