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THEATRE

OPENING THIS WEEK

Talley's Folly

Talley's Folly, the second offering of University Theatre's Second Season, opens Thursday, Feb. 14, at the Arena Theatre in Villard Hall on campus.

Curtain time will be 8 pm for this Pulitzer Prize-winning romance by the popular American playwright Lanford Wilson. Additional performances are scheduled for Feb. 15-16, 21-23, 28 and March 1-2.

Talley's Folly will be directed by Kevin R. Neuharth, a UO graduate student. It is the story of two people—both victims of their pasts—who are drawn together by their common search for love.

They meet on a July evening in 1944 in an ornate but dilapidated boathouse, known to the community as "Talley's Folly." In this decaying setting, they struggle together to rebuild their lives.

"With compassion and humor, Lanford Wilson shows us two lively, lovable people opening up their interior worlds," Neuharth says. "The triumph of Sally and Matt is the triumph of Lanford Wilson's—and our—humanity."

Scene design for this Second Season production is by Dean Bourland, with costumes by Alexandra Bonds and lighting by Janice Joyce.

All tickets are \$2. They can be purchased at the University Theatre box office in the lobby of Robinson Theatre.

Box office hours are from noon to 4 pm Monday-Saturday and from noon to 8:30 pm on performance nights. Reservations and ticket information can be obtained by calling 686-4191.



Paula Prober and Ken Hof in *The Marriage Proposal*

An Evening of Chekhov

Maude Kerns Art Center is transforming its gallery space into a "studio theatre" for two nights, featuring the work of turn-of-the-century Russian playwright Anton Chekhov. Two one-act plays, *The Marriage Proposal* and *The Brute*, will be performed Feb. 22 and 23, at 8 pm.

In *The Marriage Proposal*, Lomov, a middle class landowner, comes to court his long-time neighbor Natalia. Familiarity has apparently bred contempt, and Lomov finds he must surmount a long history of family feuds before he can "pop the question."

In *The Brute*, romance is again the subject. This time a visiting landowner intrudes on a lovely young widow and attempts to collect payment for her late husband's debts. She has renounced all interactions with men, and he has given up any show of chivalry. The battle of wills becomes the battle of the sexes in this charming comedy.

The three-person cast will appear in both plays. Ken Hof plays the would-be suitor as well as the brute. Hof is well-known to Eugene audiences for his roles at

ORT as Tom in *The Glass Menagerie* and Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Paula Prober plays his reluctant sweetheart in both shows. Ms. Prober has performed at VLT and Mainstage Theatre. Stu Currie completes the cast as a cantankerous father and a disrespectful servant. His most recent performances include roles in VLT's *Artichoke* and LCC's *Luther*.

The shows are directed by Carol Seidman, a newcomer to Eugene. Ms. Seidman has worked in Portland as a director, actress, and playwright. She has taught acting in Portland State and will be teaching two classes this spring at LCC.

Because the theatre shares space with the art gallery, productions must be mounted with minimal sets and effects. Director Carol Seidman feels this will enable the actors and the audience to focus more on the quality of the acting.

Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased in advance at the Art Center, 1910 E. 15th, Eugene. phone 345-1572 for information.

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