

For Immediate Release
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UM SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE ANNOUNCES ITS 2011-2012 SEASON OF TICKETED PERFORMANCES

Ann Arbor, Mich. — The University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance (SMTD) announces its 2011-2012 season of ticketed performances. Featuring ten full-scale stage productions from the Departments of Theatre, Musical Theatre, Opera, and Dance; two studio productions from the Department of Musical Theatre; and seven concerts by various departments within the School, the season runs September 24, 2011 through April 29, 2012. Online ticket sales begin on August 30, 2011, in-person and phone sales begin on September 6, 2011.

The season begins with *A Grand Night for Singing* on September 24, 2011 in Hill Auditorium. An event highlighting all facets of singing at the SMTD, this fast-paced concert presents performances by the Chamber Choir, University Choir, Orpheus Singers, Women's Glee Club, Men's Glee Club, the Department of Musical Theatre, and the University Opera Theatre.

Students representing the best of SMTD, beneficiaries of the generous support of SMTD scholarship donors, perform a wide range of selections in music, theatre, and dance in an "intimate Collage" for the *Scholarship Showcase* on September 25, 2011 at the Mendelssohn Theatre.

The Department of Theatre & Drama begins its season with a celebration of playwright Tennessee Williams on his centennial. Professor of Theatre & Drama Philip Kerr directs Williams' one-act play *Suddenly Last Summer*, which debuted on Broadway in 1958. One of America's most controversial and acclaimed dramatists, Williams' evokes human's capacity for violence in this exultantly harrowing play. The play runs October 6 – 16, 2011 in the Arthur Miller Theatre.

Presented in conjunction with *Suddenly Last Summer*, the Department presents the **Tennessee Williams @ 100 Conference** from October 12 – 15, 2011. Scholars, playwrights and theatre artists gather to share their perspectives on Tennessee Williams' impact on American theatre, the American consciousness, world theatre, and his enduring influence on writers for the stage. Highlighting the conference is an address by playwright Christopher Durang (*Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You*, *Baby with the Bathwater*, *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*). For more detailed information on the conference, please visit www.music.umich.edu/williams.

Touching on the current economic woes, the Department of Musical Theatre presents *The Full Monty*, about a group of six male, unemployed steelworkers who devise an unusual money-making scheme. Based on the 1997 British film, this musical written by Terrence McNally and David Yazbek features a boisterous, witty score filled with honest affection and engaging melodies. *The Full Monty* plays from October 13 - 23, 2011 at the Mendelssohn Theatre. Directed by Associate Professor of Musical Theatre Mark Madama with music direction by Assistant Professor Cynthia Kortman Westphal. The musical is recommended for mature audiences due to profanity, sexual innuendo, and brief nudity.

Saluting the 1961 Symphony Band on the 50th Anniversary of their Russian Tour, *Band-O-Rama* pays tribute to many important UM personalities and milestones including the 100th anniversary of "Varsity." Joining the concert as guest artist will be UM SMTD alumni award winner Carol Jantsch, the principal tubist of the Philadelphia Orchestra. *Band-O-Rama: Tributes* plays on October 28, 2011 at Hill Auditorium.

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The University Orchestras come together for a holiday favorite, **Halloween Concert**. Full of tricks and treats, the concert includes an array of spooky classical music combined with popular Halloween favorites. Get out your scariest costume or come dressed as you are to enjoy this delightful event for the child in all of us on October 30, 2011 at Hill Auditorium.

Shakespeare's jovial character Sir John Falstaff comes to life in Giuseppe Verdi's operatic swansong **Falstaff**. The opera is Verdi at the peak of his musical prowess, an opera filled with razor-sharp ensembles, lilting arias, and the lyric beauty of tender love. Sung in Italian with projected English translations, *Falstaff* is directed by Associate Professor of Opera Joshua Major with the University Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Oriol Sans Arrufat. *Falstaff* is presented by the University Opera Theatre November 10 – 13, 2011 at the Power Center.

The Department of Theatre & Drama presents Dario Fo's **Trumpets and Raspberries**. Winner of the 1997 Nobel Prize for Literature, Dario Fo is one of the world's most frequently performed living playwrights. Reminiscent of the Marx Brother's antics, *Trumpets and Raspberries* is a farce with a thread of political satire. *Trumpets and Raspberries* plays at the Arthur Miller Theatre from November 17 – 20, 2011, and is directed by Associate Professor of Theatre & Drama Malcolm Tulip.

Created by three theatrical voices centuries apart, **The Beaux' Stratagem** melds classic and modern sensibilities in a seamless whole that continues to delight. Originally written by Irish playwright George Farquhar in 1707, the play was an immediate success. In 1939, Thornton Wilder (*Our Town*) began working on an adaptation only to abandon the project. In 2004, Wilder's nephew rediscovered the forgotten manuscript and asked Ken Ludwig (*Crazy for You*, *Lend me a Tenor*) to complete the project. The new *Beaux'* debuted in 2006. Presented by the Department of Theatre & Drama and directed by Associate Professor Priscilla Lindsay, *The Beaux' Stratagem* runs from December 8 – 11, 2011 at the Power Center.

The Department of Musical Theatre presents a studio production of **Little Women** (the musical). Based on Louisa May Alcott's beloved novel, *Little Women* follows the adventures of Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March as they grow up in Civil War America. Directing is Musical-Theatre-Department alumnus Danny Gurwin, who originated the role of Laurie in *Little Women* on Broadway. Music Direction is by Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre Catherine Walker Adams. *Little Women* plays at the Arthur Miller Theatre from December 8 - 11, 2011.

Ushering in 2012, the **Collage Concert** has a format that is captivatingly distinctive, featuring the incredible range of SMTD ensembles and departments performing one riveting work after another without pause. Presented on January 14, 2012 in Hill Auditorium, the concert is a non-stop evening of virtuosic performances.

The University Dance Company celebrates **Dancelucent 2012**, an evening of modern dance featuring four innovative works. Highlighting the evening is *Dance #1*, the twenty-minute first section of *Dance*, guest artist Lucinda Child's ground breaking 1979 work. Featuring music by Philip Glass, *Dance #1* creates an evocative juxtaposition of past and present, weaving repetitive motion into complex patterns in a minimalist style that remains as vibrant and edgy as when it first premiered. Rounding out the program are new works by faculty choreographers Bill DeYoung, Peter Sparling and Robin Wilson. *Dancelucent 2012* runs February 2 – 5, 2012 at the Power Center.

Winner of 8 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, **Spring Awakening** traces the journey from youth to adulthood with power, poignancy, and passion. A Department of Musical Theatre studio production, *Spring Awakening* runs from February 10 – 19, 2012 in the Arthur Miller Theatre and is directed by Associate Professor of Theatre & Drama Malcolm Tulip. The musical is recommended for mature audiences due to mature content, including brief partial nudity, sexual situations, and strong language.

Playwright and novelist Michael Frayn (*Democracy*, *Copenhagen*) devised the concept for **Noises Off** while watching another one of his plays from backstage. With an ingenious structure that showcases the action both onstage and off, *Noises Off* premiered in London in 1982. Presented by the Department of Theatre & Drama, *Noises Off* is directed by Professor of Theatre & Drama John Neville-Andrews and plays at the Mendelssohn Theatre, February 16 - 19, 2012. The play contains some mild sexual innuendo and is recommended for ages fourteen and up.

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Composer Igor Stravinsky is one of the giants of 20th century music. His only full-length opera, *The Rake's Progress* (1951), was inspired by a series of engravings by English painter William Hogarth. Collaborating with poets W.H. Auden and Chester Kallman, Stravinsky infused his score with his own signature neo-classicism, paying homage to the works of Mozart, Handel, and Verdi. Pairing a witty score with a sharp libretto, *The Rake's Progress* is a cautionary tale about a life of indulgence. It's presented by the University Opera Theatre under the direction of Associate Professor of Opera Robert Swedberg with the University Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by Martin Katz. *The Rake's Progress* plays at the Mendelssohn Theatre, March 22 - 25, 2012.

Cloud Nine is the landmark work of English dramatist Caryl Churchill. One of the most respected woman writers of her generation, Churchill combines a darkly funny theatrical imagination with a strong political viewpoint, creating some of the most iconic moments in contemporary British theatre. Exploring sexual identity and politics through the lens of two centuries and one family, *The New York Times* called *Cloud Nine* "an evening of inspired lunacy." Presented by the Department of Theatre & Drama, the comedy plays at the Arthur Miller Theatre, March 29 – April 8, 2012, and is directed by guest Tim Ocel. It is recommended for mature audiences due to sexual content.

The Department of Jazz and Contemporary Improvisation highlights the Latin Jazz Ensemble, Creative Arts Orchestra, Jazz Trombone Ensemble, and other student jazz combos in *Jazz Showcase*, an evening of great jazz featuring compositions and arrangements by UM students, faculty, and many others. *Jazz Showcase* plays on April 1, 2012 in Stamps Auditorium.

Based on a 1926 play that chronicled actual events during the decadence of the Roaring Twenties, *Chicago* is the tale of chorus girl Roxie Hart who murders her lover, sets up her husband, and manipulates her way into stardom. Kander and Ebb's score features some of their best-known songs, including "All That Jazz," "Mr. Cellophane," "Cell Block Tango," and "Razzle Dazzle." *Chicago* plays at the Power Center from April 12 – 15, 2012. Associate Professor of Musical Theatre Linda Goodrich directs and choreographs, with music direction by Assistant Professor Cynthia Kortman Westphal.

The 2011-2012 season closes with the annual **Musical Theatre Senior Showcase**, an unforgettable revue featuring the wide range of talent of the Musical Theatre Department's graduating seniors. An essential element in launching students into their professional careers, the Showcase previews in Ann Arbor before making its way to New York where it is performed for agents and casting directors. The Musical Theatre Senior Showcase plays April 29, 2012 in the Mendelssohn Theatre.

Join us for Curtain Call Fridays - post-performance discussions immediately following the Friday performances of all stage productions. Moderated by members of the producing department's faculty and featuring a rotating array of cast and artistic team members, Curtain Call Fridays offer an opportunity for audience members to talk with artists about each production. The discussions are free and open to all.

Season tickets are on sale now for the 2011-2012 Power Series, a subscription package for all shows presented in the Power Center – *Falstaff*, *The Beaux' Stratagem*, *Dancelucent 2012*, and *Chicago*. Tickets for the four show series are \$88 (center orchestra/balcony) and \$68 (side orchestra/balcony). For more information on the Power Series, call the League Ticket Office at (734) 764-2538.

Online sales for single tickets for all performances begin at 10 AM on August 30, 2011. In-person and phone sales begin on September 6, 2011. Tickets are available at the League Ticket Office, located within the Michigan League on UM's Central Campus. The Ticket Office is open from 9 AM – 5 PM, Monday through Friday, and from 10 AM to 1 PM, Saturday. Reservations may be made by phone at (734) 764-2538 or online at tickets.music.umich.edu. All major credit cards are accepted.

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SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE 2010-2011 SEASON — FACT SHEET

SEPTEMBER

A Grand Night for Singing

School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Hill Auditorium
Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 8 PM
Reserved Seating \$18, \$12, \$8 & \$5

SMTD Scholarship Concert

School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Mendelssohn Theatre
Sunday, September 25, 2011 at 4 PM
Free – however, tickets are required.

OCTOBER

Suddenly Last Summer • Dept. of Theatre & Drama

Arthur Miller Theatre
Thursday, October 6, 2011 at 7:30 PM
Friday, October 7, 2011 at 8 PM
Saturday, October 8, 2011 at 8 PM
Sunday, October 9, 2011 at 2 PM
Thursday, October 13, 2011 at 7:30 PM
Friday, October 14, 2011 at 8 PM
Saturday, October 15, 2011 at 8 PM
Sunday, October 16, 2011 at 2 PM
General Admission \$26/Students \$10 with ID

The Full Monty • Dept. of Musical Theatre

Mendelssohn Theatre
Thursday, October 13, 2011 at 7:30 PM
Friday, October 14, 2011 at 8 PM
Saturday, October 15, 2011 at 8 PM
Sunday, October 16, 2011 at 2 PM
Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 7:30 PM
Friday, October 21, 2011 at 8 PM
Saturday, October 22, 2011 at 8 PM
Sunday, October 23, 2011 at 2 PM
Reserved Seating \$26 and \$20/Students \$10 with ID

Band-O-Rama: Tributes • University Bands

Hill Auditorium
Friday, October 28, 2011 at 8 PM
Reserved Seating \$18, \$12, \$8 & \$5

Halloween Concerts • University Orchestras

Hill Auditorium
Sunday, October 30, 2011 at 4 PM
Sunday, October 30, 2011 at 7:30 PM
Reserved Seating \$12 & \$8

NOVEMBER

Falstaff

University Opera Theatre & University Symphony Orchestra
Power Center
Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 7:30 PM
Friday, November 11, 2011 at 8 PM
Saturday, November 12, 2011 at 8 PM
Sunday, November 13, 2011 at 2 PM
Reserved Seating \$26 and \$20/Students \$10 with ID

Trumpets & Raspberries • Dept. of Theatre & Drama

Arthur Miller Theatre
Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 7:30 PM
Friday, November 18, 2011 at 8 PM
Saturday, November 19, 2011 at 8 PM
Sunday, November 20, 2011 at 2 PM
General Admission \$26/Students \$10 with ID

DECEMBER

The Beaux' Stratagem • Dept. of Theatre & Drama

Power Center
Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 7:30 PM
Friday, December 9, 2011 at 8 PM
Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 8 PM
Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 2 PM
Reserved Seating \$26 and \$20/Students \$10 with ID

Little Women • Dept. of Musical Theatre Studio

Arthur Miller Theatre
Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 7:30 PM
Friday, December 9, 2011 at 8 PM
Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 2 PM
Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 8 PM
Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 2 PM
General Admission \$17/Students \$10 with ID

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JANUARY

Collage Concert • School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Hill Auditorium
Saturday, January 14, 2012 at 8 PM
Reserved Seating \$26 and \$20/Students \$10 with ID

FEBRUARY

Dancelucent 2012 • University Dance Company
Power Center
Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 7:30 PM
Friday, February 3, 2012 at 8 PM
Saturday, February 4, 2012 at 8 PM
Sunday, February 5, 2012 at 2 PM
Reserved Seating \$26 and \$20/Students \$10 with ID

Spring Awakening • Dept. of Musical Theatre Studio
Arthur Miller Theatre
Friday, February 10, 2012 at 8 PM
Saturday, February 11, 2012 at 8 PM
Sunday, February 12, 2012 at 2 PM
Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 7:30 PM
Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 7:30 PM
Friday, February 17, 2012 at 8 PM
Saturday, February 18, 2012 at 8 PM
Sunday, February 19, 2012 at 2 PM
General Admission \$17/Students \$10 with ID

Noises Off • Dept. of Theatre & Drama
Mendelssohn Theatre
Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 7:30 PM
Friday, February 17, 2012 at 8 PM
Saturday, February 18, 2012 at 8 PM
Sunday, February 19, 2012 at 2 PM
Reserved Seating \$26 and \$20/Students \$10 with ID

MARCH

The Rake's Progress
University Opera Theatre & University Philharmonia Orchestra
Mendelssohn Theatre
Thursday, March 22, 2012 at 7:30 PM
Friday, March 23, 2012 at 8 PM
Saturday, March 24, 2012 at 8 PM
Sunday, March 25, 2012 at 2 PM
Reserved Seating \$26 and \$20/Students \$10 with ID

BOX OFFICE: (734) 764-2538

League Ticket Office - 911 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor
Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Saturday 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
American Express, MasterCard, Visa, Discover are accepted.
Online: www.music.umich.edu/performances (subscriptions not available online)

MEDIA CONTACT:

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Cloud Nine • Dept. of Theatre & Drama
Arthur Miller Theatre
Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 7:30 PM
Friday, March 30, 2012 at 8 PM
Saturday, March 31, 2012 at 8 PM
Sunday, April 1, 2012 at 2 PM
Thursday, April 5, 2012 at 7:30 PM
Friday, April 6, 2012 at 8 PM (Passover)
Saturday, April 7, 2012 at 8 PM
Sunday, April 8, 2012 at 2 PM (Easter)
General Admission \$26/Students \$10 with ID

APRIL

Cloud Nine — See March

Jazz Showcase • Jazz Ensembles
Stamps Auditorium
Sunday, April 1, 2012 at 7:30 PM
General Admission \$16/Students \$10 with ID

Chicago • Dept. of Musical Theatre
Power Center
Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 7:30 PM
Friday, April 13, 2012 at 8 PM
Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 8 PM
Sunday, April 15, 2012 at 2 PM
Reserved Seating \$26 and \$20/Students \$10 with ID

Musical Theatre Senior Showcase • Dept of Musical Theatre
Mendelssohn Theatre
Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 4 PM
Sunday, April 29, 2012 at 7:30 PM
Reserved Seating \$20/ Students \$10 with ID