

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

Contact: Bob McGill



Mailed February 11, 1985

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - The University Theatre of Youngstown State University will present Barrie Stavis' moving drama, "Harpers Ferry," at 8 p.m. Feb. 21, 22, 23, and Feb. 28, March 1, 2 in Ford Auditorium, Bliss Hall, Wick Avenue.

The play is based on John Brown's historic raid on Harpers Ferry, one of the events which pushed the nation into civil war.

Brown, a dedicated man who believed he was God's partner and had been personally called to liberate the slaves, led a small, poorly equipped band of men against the armory and arsenal at Harpers Ferry. More than just a history lesson, Stavis' drama deals with important social issues and prejudices which still confront us today.

Because of the manner in which "Harpers Ferry" is being presented, casual attire is recommended. Although the general admission seating is on a non-reserved seat basis, early reservations are recommended because of limited seating.

Dr. John White of Youngstown, YSU archeologist, plays the role of the insurgent John Brown. Rosie Rokus-Boelhke of Youngstown plays his wife, Mary. John Kagi, Brown's second in command, is played by Robert Spain of Warren, a social worker for Trumbull County Children's Services and Craig W. Duff of Fowler appears as Col. Lewis Washington.

The role of Frederick Douglas is performed by Don Bryant, Youngstown. Others appearing in the cast include Michael Angelo, Youngstown, Paul Ryan Byrne, Girard, Todd W. Dicken, Columbiana, Leah Flock, Canfield, limited service faculty member, Michael L. Greene, Sr., Warren, Tom Greene, Youngstown, Elsa C. Higby, Girard, Gregory D. James, Columbus, Charles Mastram and Robert McCorvey of Youngstown,

MORE

Kevin T. O'Neill, Willowick, Mark Passerrello, New Castle, Pa., Ronald P. Franczkowski and Tom Pesce, Jr., Youngstown, Peter A. Proctor, Salem, Dennis B. Reynolds, Cleveland, Anthony Ruffin, Youngstown, and W. Rick Shilling, Poland, a faculty member.

"Harpers Ferry" is directed by Christopher Martin, founder and artistic director of the City Stage Company of New York City. He has a long list of professional credits in acting, directing, producing, designing and translating in this country and in Europe. He is the winner of the OBIE, Villager, and Outer Critic's Circle awards, and his productions of "Peer Gynt" in the 1981-82 season and "Faust, Part One and Part Two," have received international acclaim. His production of the "Oresteia" is currently running in New York.

Martin is assisted by Michael Angelo of Youngstown, Megan Jones, North Jackson, Tina Lavarato, Liberty, and Carey Robins, New Waterford, all YSU students.

The setting has been created by Dr. Frank Castronovo of Boardman, YSU's theatrical designer. University costumer Jane Shanabarger, also from Boardman, is in charge of costumes.

The opening night performance on Thursday, Feb. 21, will be preceded by a free public lecture-discussion by Peter Bellamy, critic-at-large for the Cleveland Plain Dealer at 4 p.m. in the Spotlight Arena Theatre, Bliss Hall. Responding will be director Christopher Martin, playwright Barrie Stavis, Bentley Lenhoff, executive director of the Youngstown Playhouse, and Karl Schwab, entertainment editor and drama critic of the Youngstown Vindicator.

This presentation will be followed by a "Meet the Playwright First Nighters' Buffet" which will be served at 6 p.m. in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center on campus. The menu includes: Yankee potroast and vegetables, southern fried chicken and new potatoes, Ohio corn, steamed green peas and carrots, summer squash, Alabama style, Louisiana eggplant casserole, southern pecan pie, bread pudding with whiskey sauce, tossed winter greens, marinated snap-bean casserole, spinach fettucini salad, and winter vegetables with poppy-seed dressing.

ADD TWO

Immediately following the 8 p.m. performance of "Harpers Ferry," the audience is invited to participate in a symposium with the cast and crew of the play led by director Christopher Martin. This audience-participation symposium will follow each performance of the play.

Because of limited seating, early reservations for the play and "First Nighters' Buffet" are recommended and may be made by phoning the University Theatre Box Office at (216) 742-3105 from 10:15 a.m. until 5:15 p.m. weekdays. Play tickets are \$4 for the general public. Admission is free for YSU students with I.D. cards. The cost of the buffet is \$6.50 and pre-paid reservations are required.

"Harpers Ferry" is presented as part of the cultural offerings of the Department of Speech Communication and Theatre of YSU's College of Fine and Performing Arts. Funding for this special celebration of theatre involving local and out-of-town theatre professionals is provided by the Youngstown State University Foundation as part of the Raymond J. Wean-YSU 1985 Lectureship in theatre.

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YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Fifteen faculty members at Youngstown State University have been granted faculty improvement leaves during the 1985-86 academic year, Dr. Neil D. Humphrey, president, announced.

Under provisions of the YSU-Ohio Education Association agreement, such leaves are approved to further a faculty member's education, to carry on research, or secure appropriate professional experience. The purpose of the leave is to enhance the faculty member's performance in teaching, research, scholarship and university service.

Approved for three quarter leaves:

Syretha F. Cooper, Youngstown, associate professor, Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work

Dr. J. Douglas Faires, Pulaski, Pa., professor, Mathematical and Computer Sciences

Dr. Stephen A. Graf, Poland, professor, Psychology

Margaret M. Horvath, Canfield, associate professor, Home Economics

Dr. Pei Huang, Austintown, professor, History

Janet S. Knapp, Boardman, associate professor, English

Dr. Kathleen M. Kougl, Boardman, associate professor, Speech Communication and Theatre

James G. Lucas, Mineral Ridge, professor, Art

Dr. Mark A. Masaki, Youngstown, associate professor, Psychology

Dr. Charles L. Reid, Youngstown, professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies

Dr. Stephen E. Rodabaugh, Youngstown, associate professor, Mathematical and Computer Sciences

MORE

ADD ONE

Approved for three quarter leaves - cont.

Dr. James P. Ronda, Boardman, professor, History

Dr. Francis W. Smith, Salem, professor, Chemistry

Robert J. Sorokach, Liberty, professor, Industrial Engineering

For one quarter leave:

Dr. Juanita Roderick, Boardman, professor, Elementary Education

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