Buzz about ‘Flea in Her Ear’ is good

By JOE CUDZILO
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Timing is everything.

From athletics to dating to telling a joke, saying the right thing at the right time is an integral aspect of life. This old adage is especially pertinent to Assistant Professor of Fine and Performing Arts Alan Klem and his cast.

“I have been wanting to perform a farce for a long time. They are not easy to do. I haven’t directed a funny play for a long time and this year seemed right — I had the people available,” said Klem.

The Department of Fine and Performing Arts is proud to perform Georges Feydeau’s three-act farce “A Flea in Her Ear” in the Lied Center Feb. 23 to Feb. 26 and March 2 to March 4 at 7:30 p.m.

“Feydeau is a world-renowned farcical playwright. His plays are known to be the funniest ever written for the stage. I wanted to direct something off-the-wall funny,” said Klem.

The energetic cast has been practicing diligently six nights a week since the beginning of the semester, perfecting comedic timing and the nuances of the time period. During rehearsals, the women actors wear corsets to get used to a different style of physical motion. Even with vigorous rehearsals, the cast members still find time to enjoy themselves.

“This play is so ridiculous. My favorite part is the script because the humor is universal and feel-good. Also the people in the show are a lot of fun. The play is something different. I play a character one doesn’t usually get to play, and it’s always fun to play roles you don’t normally play,” said Lena Cigleris, Arts & Sciences senior who plays Olyme, an ex-prostitute who owns the Pretty Pussy Inn.

The show follows Yvonne Chandelier (Anna Kurtz), a young wife who suspects her husband Victor-Emmanuel’s (Dan Oberhelman) infidelity. Yvonne, along with her longtime confidante Lucienne (Dharma Oriach), embarks on a quest to test Victor-Emmanuel’s faithfulness. The ladies conjure up a plan and write a letter to him as an imaginary admirer, requesting a meeting in a hotel that produces a wild string of wacky mix-ups.

“This show is one of the funnest ever written for the stage,” said Klem. “It deals with real people caught in bizarre circumstances. This will be a good evening of entertainment with a lot of laughter and physical comedy. There will be slaps, punches, actors running through the aisles and mistaken identities in the bedroom. The cast has put in a lot of time and the end result should be a fun time for the audience.”

Dharma Oriach, Arts & Sciences junior who plays Lucienne, added, “This play has given me the opportunity to grow and to learn more about theater. It has shown me that this is exactly what I want to do in my life.”

Reserve your seat by calling the reservation line at 280-1448. Ticket prices are $10 for general admission, $8 for seniors and $5 for students.

Pictured from left to right: Anna Kurtz as Yvonne Chandelier; Dan Oberhelman as Victor-Emmanuel Chandelier/ Poche and Jack Lawson as Romain Tourmel. “A Flea in Her Ear” opens Feb. 23. Tickets are $5 for students. Call 280-1448 to reserve your seat.