

Shakespearean plays to be performed on campus

By William Wade
Staff reporter

The Campus Players of Southwestern College will be bringing Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" to Richardson Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 11 & 12 and at 2:00 p.m. on Nov. 13. Stoppard's renowned comedy is an absurdist spin-off of William Shakespeare's "Hamlet", putting minor characters Rosencrantz and Guildenstern in the spotlight and showing us their perspective on the events to unfold.

Meagan Morrow, theater senior, who will be playing the role of Guildenstern, says she is honored to have received the opportunity to play the iconic role. "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" is one of her all-time favorite works, and she remembers fondly back to the days when she sat reading this very play in her high school English class, with no idea what the future would have in store for her. Meagan is also very happy to be getting to share this experience with Stephen Gehly, theater senior, who will be playing the part of the show's other title character, Rosencrantz.

When asked about some of the challenges of the role, Morrow uttered only one word: lines. Morrow can constantly be seen pouring over an open script with multiple pages highlighted. She has come very far in memorization though, and is excited for a successful opening night on Nov. 11 when all of her hard work will finally pay off.

As a refresher of the universe



wherein Rosencrantz and Guildenstern exists, the show will open with another Stoppard piece, "15-Minute Hamlet". This comedic abridgement of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" provides a short fifteen-minute recap of Shakespeare's longest play.

Jon Lane, theater junior, the actor playing the Ghost of "15-Minute Hamlet" and a Tragedian of "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead", described Stoppard's "15-Minute Hamlet" as "Hamlet" at its core. In fact, the lines for "15-Minute Hamlet" were taken right from the original script. "Once it gets going it is really fun and a cool thing to get to be a part of," he said.

Late one rehearsal Jack Waring, theater freshman, the actor who will be playing the part of The Player in "Rosencrantz

and Guildenstern" and Laertes in "15-Minute Hamlet", had a few words to share about why people should come see the production. "The cast has been working incredibly hard for you to enjoy this hilariously witty show," he said.

Carson Davis, theater freshman, is the stage manager for the production. She said, "Our actors have been working extremely hard to put these two productions together to share with everybody, and they can't wait to perform!"

Tickets to "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern" and "15-Minute Hamlet" are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, and \$6 for kids.

Southwestern College students and staff are free.

William Wade is a senior majoring in theater and communication. You can email him at william.wade@sckans.edu.

Top: Meagan Morrow, theater senior, and Stephen Gehly, theater senior, contemplate what their next step is after a turn of events. (Kylie Stamper/Staff Photographer)

Below: Meagan Morrow, theater senior, and Stephen Gehly, theater senior, frantically search for excuses after unexpectedly meeting Matthew Porter, music theater sophomore. Porter plays Claudius--the king and Hamlet's uncle. Morrow and Gehly play Guildenstern and Rosencrantz, respectively. (Kylie Stamper/Staff Photographer)

Bottom left: William Wade, theater and communication senior, portrays Hamlet in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. (Kylie Stamper/Staff Photographer)



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