

UD Theater Asks: 357 Have You Heard This 'Polish Joke'?

"Polish Joke" by David Ives, a comedy about ethnic identity and the eternal American search for "roots," will be performed November 17-December 3 by the Theatre Company of the University of Detroit Mercy, the second show of their 36th season.

Jasiu is a Polish-American who has been taught not to value his roots, so he decides to make his own roots, reinventing himself first as a sort of non-ethnic everyman, then as an "Irishman."

Jasiu's adventures take him through a job interview with an WASP; to an attempt to become a Catholic priest; to a flower shop where he can't get service because he is weirdly invisible; to a doomed love affair with a Jewish woman; to a wacky Irish travel agency where he has to prove that he is Irish before he can buy a ticket; and to a doctor



Photo by Courtney Burkett

David Kowalczyk and Marissa Thorndyke appear in "Polish Joke."

more interested in ethnic pain than in healing.

Jasiu is also bedeviled by a reappearing Polish relative and has to face-off with the ghost of a dead Polish patriot. In the end, by trying to get away from his ethnic background, Jasiu finds out who he is and what it means to be "a Pole."

The Theatre Company's performances are held Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Marygrove College Theatre, 8425 W. McNichols Rd. at Wyoming, just a mile west of the UDM campus in Detroit.

For tickets, call (313) 993-3270. For more information, visit theatre.