



The Theatre Company

University of Detroit Mercy
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Of Mice And Malice

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The Theatre Company at the University of Detroit Mercy, which has been presenting award-winning theatre for 36 years, will stage a four-show season in 2006-07, featuring a literary classic, a "roots" comedy, a locally-written drama about racism and a recent musical comedy with a message.

The season opens with John Steinbeck's classic **"Of Mice and Men,"** directed by Detroit theatre veteran Arthur J. Beer. It is a tense drama about two drifters — George and Lennie, a dangerously powerful little boy in a man's body — working as ranch hands when one of them is implicated in the murder of the ranch boss' promiscuous wife. **"Of Mice and Men"** runs for three weekends September 29-October 15.

The season continues with the Midwest premier of **"Polish Joke"** by David Ives, directed by Yolanda Fleischer. The play is a comedy about ethnic identity and the eternal American search for "roots." Jasiu, a Polish-American who has been taught not to value his own roots, decides to make his own roots,

reinvesting himself first as a non-ethnic everyman, then as an "Irishman." **"Polish Joke"** runs for three weekends November 17-December 3.

"Malice Aforethought: The Sweet Trials" by Arthur Beer, directed by David Regal, will be performed February 2-18. The State of Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries has joined the UD-M in a partnership to develop a this production as the centerpiece of a series of statewide activities to engage the public on important issues of race, class and civil rights in non-threatening settings.

"Malice Aforethought" was first produced by the Theatre Company 20 years ago in 1987. The story revolves around an incident in 1925 when Dr. Ossian Sweet moved his family into a formerly all-white neighborhood on Detroit's eastside. A mob tried to force him out, and he, his family and friends defended themselves with gunfire. When a bystander was killed, all 11 people in the house were arrested, held without bail, and charged with murder and conspiracy.

Frank Murphy, later Governor and FDR's Attorney General, was the Judge. The ACLU, NAACP and Urban League raised money for the defense, which was led by Clarence Darrow.

The final show of the season, **"Urinetown,"** is a collaboration between UD-M's Theatre Company and Marygrove College's Departments of Music and Dance. **"Urinetown"** is a hilarious tale of



Curtis Green and Matt Klug in the UDM Theatre Company's "Of Mice and Men," which opens September 29.

greed, corruption, love and revolution in a time when water is worth its weight in gold. In a Gotham-like city, a water shortage has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. **"Urinetown"** will be directed by UDM alumni Greg Trazskoma and runs March 23-April 1.

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 in Detroit. The box office is located in Reno Hall on the UD-M campus. For tickets, call (313) 933-3270. For more information visit theatre.udmercy.edu.