

# SWOSU Theatre Plans Dinner Theatre of *The Foreigner*

03.28.2012

The cast and crew of Southwestern Oklahoma State University's production of *The Foreigner* includes (front from left): Merritt Taylor, Cordell, David; Carmen Rutledge, Lawton, Betty; Shawna McCoy, Hydro (Corn Bible Academy), Townsperson/Props; and Adam Boothby, Guymon, Owen. Middle row from left—Joe Curtis, Hydro-Eakly, Froggy; Monica Sallaway, Claremore, Catherine; Kaitlin Belden, Leedey, Townsperson; and Emma Brown, Clinton, Properties; Back row from left—Calley Lamar, Okeene, Stage Manager; Drew Krause, Okeene, Ellard; Cody Carnahan, Sayre, Charlie/Costume Designer/Lighting Assistant; and Nikki Reiss, Moore, Townsperson/Props. Not pictured are James Brennan, Lawton, Assistant Scenic Design; Dakota Jones, Yukon, Light Board Operator; and Eric Martin, Weatherford, Sound Design.

A dinner theatre is planned by the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Department of Communication and Theatre to close the 2011-2012 season on the Weatherford campus.

The SWOSU players will be presenting Larry Shue's comedy, *The Foreigner*, in the SWOSU Hilltop Theatre on April 13-15 and then without the dinner theatre on April 19-20.

Dinner theatre tickets are \$20 for all seats (reservations required). Tickets for the regular performances on April 19-20 are \$5 for adults, \$3 for non-SWOSU students and free for individuals with a valid SWOSU ID.

The SWOSU Hilltop Theatre box office will begin taking reservations on April 2 and is open Monday through Friday from 4-7 p.m. The box office phone number is 580.774.6046.

The dinner theatre performances are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 13-14, at 6 p.m. and Sunday, April 15, at 12:30 p.m. The last two performances on Thursday and Friday, April 19-20, are at 7:30 p.m. and do not include dinner.

Winner of two Obie Awards and two Outer Critics Circle Awards as Best New American Play and Best Off-Broadway Production, *The Foreigner* enjoyed a sold-out premiere in Milwaukee before moving on to a long run Off-Broadway.

Based on what the NY Post describes as a "devilishly clever idea," the play demonstrates what can happen when a group of devious characters must deal with a stranger who (they think) knows no English.

The scene is a fishing lodge in rural Georgia often visited by "Froggy" LeSeuer, a British demolition expert who occasionally runs training sessions at a nearby army base. This time "Froggy" has brought along a friend, a pathologically shy young man named Charlie who is overcome with fear at the thought of making conversation with strangers. So "Froggy," before departing, tells all assembled that Charlie is from an exotic foreign country and speaks no English.

Once alone, the fun really begins, as Charlie overhears more than he should— evil plans and damaging revelations made with the thought that Charlie doesn't understand a word being said. He does, which fuels the nonstop hilarity of the play and sets up the wildly funny climax.