

SWOSU Hilltop Players Plan Four Theatrical Productions During 2009-10

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Four productions are planned by the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Department of Communication and Theatre and the SWOSU Hilltop Players during the 2009-10 theatre season on the Weatherford campus.

The schedule includes:

- * **Kid-Simple: A Radio Play in the Flesh, October 8-10**
- * **The Grove at the Gate: A Rashomon Tale, November 19-21**
- * **Grease, March 4-9**
- * **The King of Hearts is Lonely, April 15-17**

All of the productions will take place in the new Hilltop Theatre, where SWOSU theatrical productions now take place.

Kid-Simple: A Radio Play in the Flesh, a gut-busting comedy by Jordan Harrison, kicks off the season. Show times are 7:30 p.m. on October 8-9 and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on October 10. The play is not appropriate for children, so viewer discretion is advised.

Moll, a young inventress, devises a machine called the Third Ear that is capable of amplifying any sound, enabling the audience to hear unique sounds such as toenails growing on a field mouse, load-bearing walls, and solitary jelly. Unfortunately, the machine is stolen by the Mercenary, a villain of the worst kind. Moll sets out to find the Third Ear accompanied by the last boy-virgin in the eleventh grade, Oliver. The two must travel through sound and the Mighty Mountain to preserve the world of sound.

The second production in the fall lineup is *The Grove at the Gate: A Rashomon Tale*. *The Grove at the Gate* is a modern translation of a classic tale of deceit. The play is based on Japanese short stories written by Ryunosuke Akutagawa. Full of intrigue, murder, and rape, *The Grove at the Gate* will keep audiences guessing from start to finish. Show times for this production are 7:30 p.m. on November 19-20 and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on November 21.

SWOSU will feature the musical *Grease* in March. Written by Jim Jacobs with music and lyrics by Warren Kasey, greaser Danny and good-girl Sandy fall in love during this 1950s tale of the love and lust at Rydell High. Rizzo, Kenickie, Marty, Frenchy, and the rest of the gang sing and dance through their senior year at Rydell High. It will be a time to reminisce about the days of drive-in movies and burgers and shakes. Show times are 7:30 p.m. on March 4, 5, 8, and 9 and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on March 6 and 7.

The fourth and final show of the 2009-2010 Hilltop Theatre season is *The King of Hearts is Lonely*, a short children's script written by SWOSU theatre student Tyler Powell. The production will be completely student written, designed, directed and performed. Public school performances will be presented for area schools in addition to the traditional evening performances. Production dates are April 15-17 at 7:30 p.m.

For more information on any of these productions or to reserve tickets, please call the SWOSU Hilltop Theatre box office at 580.774.6046.