



To News Room:
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Community Theater tackles an emotional topic in a unique fashion

Utica, NY – Players of Utica brings an emotional and real-life topic to the stage with the play FROZEN by Bryony Lavery. FROZEN is a story set in present-day England and involves three main characters: a serial killer and pedophile named Ralph (Stephen Wagner), who kidnaps and murders a young girl; the murdered girl's mother, Nancy (Zenna Monaghan); and a New York psychiatrist, Agnetha (Michele O'Neil), who travels to England to examine Ralph. The three lives slowly intersect - and the characters gradually change and become "unfrozen" as they come to terms with the idea of forgiveness. This powerful and poignant production brings to life a story that we have heard all too often in recent news stories. The audience will be moved as each actor plays out their role with thoughtfulness and attention to detail.

This play contains graphic language and is intended for mature audiences. On language, director Ron Medici says, "I make no apologies for the strong language used in this play. As a director I often hear, 'I liked the play, but was that language necessary'?" I think these people miss the point. Language defines who we are. We choose the words we use so that others can get a better picture of who we are. A playwright does much the same. Changing the words redefines the character and makes him or her less believable.

As for the staging of this play, director Medici chose to borrow a technique from the Chinese Opera for changing scenery called "kurogo". Kurogo means person in black. The kurogo move scenery and help with costumes on stage in full view of the audience. They generally remain on stage until they make another change. Some believe they are the spirit or soul of the prop they are carrying. They never speak, although they can be called upon to become an animal or silent person. Kurogo is a rarely technique that lends itself well to this subject matter. It adds another dimension to the story.

FROZEN was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Play (2004) and won a Tony Award for Best Featured Actor (Brian F. O'Byrne).

The show opens on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 and runs through Saturday, February 11, 2012 at Players of Utica Theater, 1108 State Street in Utica. Performances begin at 7:30 pm each night. Tickets are \$15 and available at www.playersofutica.org or at the door the night of the show.

FROZEN director, Ronald Medici, is a graduate of Syracuse University and holds a Masters Degree in theater. He was a Professor of Theater SUNY Oswego for 25 years and is now retired. Mr. Medici has choreographed and directed for professional theater companies, opera companies and colleges. His great love of Community Theater is what brings him to Players of Utica.

Four Seasons Landscape Management, Northeast Excavating, PJ Green, Serianni signs and The Scalise Family sponsor the 2011-2012 Season.

About Players of Utica: Players of Utica, a non-profit community theatre, has been continuously producing shows in Central NY since 1913. We have entertained more than 1 million individuals with first-class community theatre. Players of Utica is an equal opportunity community theatre organization. For more information, a complete history, and to support or participate in Players of Utica, visit our web site at www.playersofutica.org.