

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

STILLWATER THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS THE GRINNING MAN

Elisabeth Lynne Bjork
Staff Writer

Only once a year, the Stillwater Theatre Company produces a huge, full-scale production at Meredith's Studio Theatre. This year's featured production, *The Grinning Man*, will see Meredith Theatre majors and professional actors side by side on the stage in the midst of fog and some serious sound effects.

The *Grinning Man* by Alex Smith is the epitome of a horror story. As Stillwater Theatre Company's Artistic Director Steven Roten puts it, "Husband and wife Eliot and Gale are owners of The Phoenician, a successful exotic flower shop. When the play opens, they are awaiting the arrival of Theresa, a friend who is troubled, estranged; as they close shop for the day, they are visited by a mysterious (and menacing) customer. Who is this man? Why is he so disturbingly familiar? Secrets and lies, apparitions and mysteries....the debut production of a nightmarish new work."

Alex Smith's original play is a milestone in the eyes of the Stillwater Theatre Company because it is the first play to be produced after the company made its commitment to produce only new works.

Abbey Collins (Gale) and Sheryl Scott (Theresa) are both Meredith College seniors performing alongside professionals Jeff Stanley (Eliot), Brian Mullens (The Grinning Man), and Samantha Rahn (Cynthia).

Although the Stillwater Theatre Company as well as the whole Meredith theatre department can hardly wait to share its performance with the audience, Steven Roten adds a word of caution: "The play...deals with adult themes. Adult language and situations require a parental warning for this show. The students should also be warned that the show incorporates fog, intense sound effects, simulated violence, and uncomfortable situations. It will scare you. That being said, it's one scream of a ride and I think it will be a great way to get into the spirit of the fall season."

If horror stories are not your cup of tea, this show may brew a little too long for your taste. But if you prefer a ten-minute-brew, then read the information below:

Performance dates: September 2009 • 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 @ 8pm
September 20, 27 @ 3pm
Location:- Studio Theatre • Jones Hall, Meredith College
\$15 Adults • \$10 Seniors and Students (Valid ID Required)
As always, Meredith College students, faculty, and staff are admitted free of charge.

Production dates: September 18-19 at 8pm
September 22-26 at 8pm
September 20 and 27 at 3pm

STUDIO THEATER
Jones Hall
Meredith College

TICKET PRICES
\$15 for adults
\$10 for seniors and students
All waived to students, faculty, & staff are admitted free of charge (with valid ID)

TICKETS call 919.760.2840 or email boxoffice@meredith.edu
STRONG LANGUAGE, VIOLENCE AND ADULT THEMES - PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED

stillwater THEATRE COMPANY presents

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www.still-water-theatre.org

Photo courtesy still-water-theatre.org

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

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Staff Writer

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) invites you to celebrate the National Day of Peace, September 21st, by watching the widely-recognized film, "Pray the Devil Back to Hell." Colleges in several locations in the United States will show this film to encourage people to remember to take steps towards peacemaking—their own catalyst for change. Somewhat like the play, "Lysistrata," in which the women of Spartan and Athens

unite to stop the Peloponnesian War, the brave Liberian women of "Pray the Devil Back to Hell" unite to put a stop to the massive civil war and restore the peace of their broken country. Thousands of women all across the African nation protest violence and stand up for peace.

On the National Day of Peace, the film will be shown in numerous locations all over the United States of America. It has won several awards at renowned ceremonies,

including the Tribeca Film Festival in New York. The producer, Abigail E. Disney, is very distinguished in her field, and the director, Gini Reticker, has won an Emmy Award and has been nominated for several Academy Awards.

See praise for "Pray the Devil Back to Hell"—

"Uplifting, disheartening, inspiring—the mind reels while watching the documentary 'Pray the Devil Back to Hell.'"

—The New York Times
"A marvelous documentary."
—The LA Times

The film will be shown Monday, September 21st, 6:00 p.m. in Jones Auditorium. This film counts as credit for an academic or cultural event for Meredith students.

For more information, and information about viewings in other locations across the nation, visit <http://www.praythediavilbacktohell.com>.