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Classic dramas, Orem premiere to open

'Farewell to Eden' is festival entry for UVSC

By [Ivan M. Lincoln](#)

Deseret Morning News

Classic dramas and the premiere of a new play in Orem are among this week's theater openings.

• **"FAREWELL TO EDEN,"** a new drama by Utah Valley State College student playwright Mahonri Stewart, will premiere Thursday through Nov. 22 in the school's Black Box Theatre. According to faculty member James Arrington, who has worked with Stewart on developing the script, it has "the same sensibility as works by Jane Austen, Charles Dickens or Charlotte and Emily Bronte."

Set in England in 1840, the play will be UVSC's entry in the American College Theatre Festival competition.

Arrington, who is directing, notes that Stewart's play contains historical LDS Church characters as it focuses on the proselyting effort in Great Britain at the time. The central characters are three recently orphaned, but adult, Hightett siblings — Georgianna, Catherine and Thomas. According to Arrington, "This is an intelligently plotted and sometimes jaw-dropping story with lots of humor to carry it."

Stewart, a UVSC sophomore, recently won third place in the Ruth and Nathan Hale Comedy Playwriting Contest. The cast includes Margie Johnson, Brandon West and Amber Jones as the three Hightetts, with Angela Youmans, Sam Schofield, Aaron Wilden, Ken Brown, Sam Davis, Russ Bennett, Tatum Langton and Fallon Hanson in other roles.

"Farewell to Eden" will play Thursday-Saturday of this week, and Nov. 19-22 the following week, all at 7:30 p.m. The Black Box is in Room 617 of the Gunther Trades Building. Tickets are \$8 for general admission, \$6 for students, senior citizens and children, and \$4 for UVSC students. For reservations, call 801-863-8797.

• **"THE WINTER'S TALE,"** Shakespeare's first successful achievement in writing a romantic drama, opens Wednesday and plays through Dec. 6 in Brigham Young University's Pardoe Theatre. The plot centers on the contention that surfaces between King Leontes of Sicilia and King Polixenes of Bohemia, when the former suspects the latter of having an affair with his wife, Queen Hermione.

Director Laurie Harrop-Purser is adding her own twists, such as setting the production in the period of the Klondike Gold Rush. The locales are being shifted to Sicilia in the Yukon and Bohemia in Northern California. She's also utilizing a storyteller to narrate the proceedings. Her cast of 12 will play mutiple roles.



Half-price previews are Wednesday and Thursday (Nov. 12-13). Regular tickets for remaining performances — Tuesdays-Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. — are \$12 for the general public and \$9 for BYU students, faculty or staff. For reservations, call 801-378-4322.

• **"THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER,"** the Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman 1939 classic comedy, is being staged as a dinner-theater production by the Grove Theatre, 20 S. Main, Pleasant Grove, where it opens on Thursday and continues through Nov. 29. Glen Meigs plays radio personality Sheridan Whitesides, who comes for dinner at the Stanley family home, then slips and falls on their porch, turning himself into an unwilling (and unwelcome) invalid guest.



Glen Meigs, left, Kate Lowder and Devin Asay in the Grove Theatre's production of the classic comedy, "The Man Who Came to Dinner."

Photo By Gayliene Omary

The cast also includes Nicole Quist, Jeannine Gwilliam, Steve Roll, Kate Lowder, Lisa Giles, Shawn Flannery, Jason Evans, Claria Susan Morey and Wendy Asay.

Tickets are \$18 for combined show and buffet dinner or \$8 for just the play. Performances are Mondays and Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:15 p.m. (meal served at 6:30 p.m.), with Saturday matinees at 2 p.m. (lunch buffet from 1-1:45 p.m.). Matinee tickets are \$15 each. There will be no show on Thanksgiving. For reservations, call 801-796-8499.

• **"AN EVENING WITH DICKENS,"** directed and performed by Michael Jesse Bennett, showcases excerpts from two of Charles Dickens' stories, "Boots at the Holly Tree Inn" and "The Trial" from "Pickwick Papers." The performance (at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday in the University of Utah's Union Building Little Theatre) replicates what Dickens did — reciting edited readings from his own works.

"The Holly Tree Inn" is a relatively obscure Dickens story, but it was an "audience favorite" in his time. It's about two children — only 7 and 8 years of age — who want to run away to be married, and a former servant who manages to squelch the proposal. The "Pickwick" segment focuses on a trial that results from a misunderstanding between Mr. Pickwick and his landlady.

The Babcock Performing Readers performance is free. Refreshments and free parking are also provided.

• **"PINOCCHIO"** is being staged on Saturdays at 2 p.m. only, Nov. 15-Dec. 13, at the Terrace Plaza Playhouse, 99 E. 4700 South, Washington Terrace. The musical version of the beloved children's fable is being directed by Carolyn Stevens. All tickets are \$5 per person. For reservations, call 801-393-0070.

• **"THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL,"** the Broadway version of the classic romantic swashbuckling tale, is scheduled for a three-night run in the Cox Performing Arts Center at Dixie State College, St. George. Performances are Thursday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Brent Hanson is directing a cast that includes DSC alumnus Ryan Norton as Sir Percy Blakeney, the British aristocrat whose mission is to save innocent French citizens from the blade of "Madame Guillotine" during the French Revolution.

Other key players include Amory Pease as Marguerite St.

Just, Sir Percy's wife and a suspected spy, and Ben Hale as the villainous Chauvelin.

Curtain is 7:30 p.m. nightly. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for students. (DSC students are admitted free with a valid activity card.) For reservations, call 435-652-7800.

• **"PLAY ON!"** is being staged Friday through Nov. 22 by the Midvale Arts Council. Directed by Stephanie Johnson, it's a behind-the-scenes comedy about a community theater troupe attempting to produce a play but forced to contend with constant interference from the haughty authoress, who keeps revising the script. Act One is a messy rehearsal, Act Two is an even worse dress rehearsal. Act Three is a disastrous performance.

The cast includes Barbara Newman as Phyllis, the meddling playwright, with Courtney Craven, Bethany Newman Hall and Becky Glover as the backstage crew, and Andy Craven, Barry Johnson, Scott Ferrin, Jill Craven, Lorri L. Cerva and Elisha Jorgensen as the confused actors.

Performances are 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and Nov. 17 and 20-22 in the Midvale Senior Center, 350 W. Park St. (7610 South). Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$2 for children and senior citizens or \$15 for a family pass. They're available at the door, or in advance at City Hall, 655 W. Center (7720 South).



Barbara Newman, left, Bethany Newman Hall and Becky Glover are in the cast of Midvale Arts Council's production of "Play On!"

Midvale Arts Council

• **TWO MURDER-MYSTERY EVENTS** are scheduled this week — a revival of one of Hunt Mysteries' popular works and a two-night "package" deal at a Midway bed-and-breakfast inn.

— **"More Mystery on the Moors"** is being revived by Hunt Mysteries on Saturday at the Shalamar Reception Center, 2065 E. 6200 South. The audience-participation show is set in Victorian England. Tickets are \$30 each, including buffet dinner and show. Doors open at 7 p.m.

It will also be presented Dec. 18 in the Red Lion Hotel in downtown Salt Lake City. Tickets are \$37, including a holiday buffet dinner.

For reservations to either performance, call 569-1482, or go online to www.huntmysteries.com. (Additional performances may be added during the holidays.)

— **"The Ill-Gotten Gains of Prospector Pete,"** written by Bob Bedore and produced by the Quick Wits Improv Company, will be staged as a two-night event Friday and Saturday at Johnson Mill Bed & Breakfast, 100 Johnson Mill Road, Midway. The action starts on Friday night and concludes on Saturday night. Throughout the weekend there will also be games and treasure hunts. The meal on Saturday night will be catered by Chef Jean Louis Montecot.

There are four price ranges (\$300-\$490), all including two nights lodging and meals. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Huntsman Cancer Institute.

The inn is also offering another option: \$40 each for just the Saturday night dinner. For reservations, call 1-888-272-0030 or go online to www.johnsonmill.com.

► **'Annie' extended**

Because all regularly scheduled performances are completely sold out, Hale Centre Theatre, West Valley City, is adding three Friday matinees to its production of "Annie." Newly added shows are 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 14 and 21, and 12:30 p.m. on Nov. 28. Call 984-9000 for reservations.<

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