Theatre and Dance Department Presents “The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui”

St. Paul, Minn.—The Macalester College Theatre and Dance Department presents Bertolt Brecht’s The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui in the Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, Main Stage Theater, 1600 Grand Ave., St. Paul, Minn. Tickets are $7 general admission and $5 for seniors and groups. Performances are at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Feb. 20-22, and Saturday Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui is directed by Ruth Easton Guest Artist Barbra Berlovitz. For ticket information, call 651-696-6359 or go to macalester.edu/boxoffice (http://www.macalester.edu/boxoffice).

Fearing persecution, Brecht left Germany in 1933 and wrote The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui in exile in 1941. The play is a savage comedy about Arturo Ui, a Chicago gangster who clearly resembles Adolf Hitler. As Ui (Alana Horton ’14) and his associates Givola (Aubrey Rickle ’14), Giri (John Stark ’16) and Roma (Ryan Brownlow ’14) threaten and manipulate their way into controlling the cauliflower trade of Chicago, their assent mirrors the real-life rise of the Third Reich and Hitler, Goebbels, Göring, and Röhm. Grim preoccupations of fascism, terror, and violence are thus shifted through a prism of comedy and gangsters in this highly satirical allegory.

Performed continuously by Brecht’s company the “Berliner Ensemble” for the last 20 years, The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui continues to prove its relevance as fringe groups continue to lust for power and powerful forces deal in corruption the world over.

The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui is directed by Barbra Berlovitz, one of four founding artistic directors of the 2005 Tony Award-winning Theatre de la Jeune Lune (TJL). For the almost 30 years of its existence, she acted, directed, taught and was instrumental in the artistic leadership of this internationally acclaimed company. Since the closing of TJL Barbra has acted with the Sod House Theater, Ten Thousand Things, Live Action Set, Theatre Novi Most and the Improbable Theatre companies.

The cast includes Jessica Stone ’16 (Granada Hills, Calif.) as The Barker, Flake and other characters; Stephanie Messer ’15 (Apex, N.C.) as Caruther, the Physician, and other characters; Jon Riddle ’16 (Minneapolis, Minn.) as Butler, the Judge, and other characters; Noah Nieting ’17 (Bloomington, Minn.) as Mullbery and Greenwool; Jeffery Kaplan ’14 (Pittsburgh, Penn.) as Clark, Prosecutor, and other characters; Jon Dahl ’14 (Roseau, Minn.) as Dogsborough, Pastor, and other characters; Alana Horton ’14 (Northampton, Mass.) as Arturo Ui; Ryan Brownlow ’14 (Fort Worth, Texas) as Ernesto Roma, the Actor, and other characters; Nikata Yatchenko (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania) as Ted Ragg, Inna, and other characters; Ceren Kaysadi ’14 (Istanbul, Turkey) as Dockdaisy, and other characters; John Stark ’16 (Grinnell, Iowa) as...
Emmanuel Giri and O’Casey; Rebecca Andrews Murtha ’16 (Silver Spring, Md.) as Bowl, Fish, and other characters; Tyler O’Brian ’16 (Pownal, Maine) as Goodwill, Dullfeet, and other characters; Judith Wodzak ’15 (La Crosse, Wis.) as Gaffles and other characters; Aubrey Rickle ’14 (Fostoria, Ohio) as Givola; Rachel Siegel ’17 (Berkeley, Calif.) playing Sheet, The Woman, and other characters; and Claire Mercer ’16 (Oak Park, Ill.) as Mrs. Betty Dullfeet and other characters.

Macalester College, founded in 1874, is a national liberal arts college with a full-time enrollment of 2,011 students. Macalester is nationally recognized for its long-standing commitment to academic excellence, internationalism, multiculturalism, and civic engagement. Learn more at macalester.edu (http://www.macalester.edu/).

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