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OUACHITA
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NEWS

For Immediate Release

Ouachita and Henderson collaborate to perform *To Kill a Mockingbird* Sept. 29-Oct. 10

By Mattie Alexander

September 19, 2016

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870)245-5208

ARKADELPHIA, Ark.—The Ouachita Baptist University and Henderson State University theatre programs are partnering to produce and perform *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The play is adapted by Christopher Sergel from the classic novel by Harper Lee. The show will be performed Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 2 at 2:30 p.m. in OBU's Verser Theatre and Oct. 6-8 and Oct. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in HSU's Arkansas Hall Studio Theatre.

The two universities have combined both performing and technical resources to produce the gripping story of a young girl, Scout, and her brother, Jem, in Maycomb, Ala., who witness their father, Atticus, deal with racial prejudices. The siblings learn about social injustice through their father and experience the cruelty and kindness of the world for themselves.

"As an OBU student, working with the HSU theatre department has been such a special experience," said Emma Pitts, a freshman musical theatre major from Clarksville, Ark. Pitts portrays Scout Finch in the play. "We all come from different theatre backgrounds and we can all learn something from each other. I love getting to spend time with this cast and become closer with each and every one of them through this joint production."

"I'm excited about bringing the story to life," said the show's director, Dr. Claudia Beach, HSU director of theatre. "It is a story that has meant so much to me since I was a wee one. It is an important message for where we are today in the world. I am excited for seeing the story come to life and sharing it with an audience."

"Theatre as a profession is about working well with teams making good connections wherever you go," said Eric Phillips, chair of OBU's Department of Theatre Arts and scenic designer for the show. "This collaboration allows students to start that process close to home with students and faculty that are close to their experience but that might have some different approaches to their craft."

"Theatre also is a community event, and coming to see this play will give people a chance to see the strong work of our joined students and faculty in a thoughtful evening of their peers telling a good story and asking some important questions about who we are as humans," Phillips noted.

Tickets are \$10 each. For the OBU performances, tickets may be purchased at www.obu.edu/boxoffice or through the Jones Performing Arts Center Box Office weekdays from 1-5 p.m. For the HSU performances, tickets can be purchased at the Arkansas Hall Box Office weekdays from 1-4 p.m. HSU reservations may be made by calling (870) 230-5037 or by emailing theatre@hsu.edu.

Current Ouachita and Henderson students may receive one ticket upon presentation of their student ID at the box office at either venue. For more information, call the OBU Box Office at (870) 245-5555 or the HSU Box Office at (870) 230-5291 during business hours.

For a full list of cast and crew members,
visit <https://www.obu.edu/news/2016/09/19/ouachita-henderson-collaborate-perform-kill-mockingbird-sept-29-oct-10/>.