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Come Take a Glimpse at an Exploration of the Human Condition in *The Seagull* at the University of Florida Sept 21 – Oct 1, 2017

Gainesville, Fla., Sept, 7, 2017 – “We learn about life not from the pluses alone, but from the minuses as well,” said Anton Chekhov, playwright of *The Seagull*. The University of Florida School of Theatre + Dance will explore love, art and artists in love in this world renowned play. Associate Professor of Acting Tim Altmeyer reimagines this enchanting play that has captivated audiences since its debut in 1896. Altmeyer took a modern translation by Marian Fell and adapted it to be even more engaging and relatable to contemporary audience.

The premiere of this landmark play in 1896 was met with an outraged audience, who hooted and hollered throughout the evening. Anatoly Koni, a jurist and literary aficionado was an audience member who believed that Chekhov achieved something new and important for dramatic literature. In a letter to Chekhov, Koni wrote, “It is life itself onstage, with all its tragic alliances, eloquent thoughtlessness and silent sufferings—the sort of everyday life that is accessible to everyone and understood in its cruel internal irony by almost no one.”

The Seagull is a play about a group of people exploring their thoughts and dreams, evaluating life and love, exploring the meaning of life, and what it means to be an artist both in life and love. The play takes place on Sorin’s estate, which serves as a perfect backdrop for each character to develop: Irina Arkadina struggles with her fear of growing old and alone while enthralled with vanity as an actress; Konstatin, Arkadina’s son, battles self-loathing and his unrequited love for Nina; Nina obsesses about fame and success and the yearning to escape her ordinary life; Trigorin fears being an ordinary being writer all while balancing the dysfunctional relationship he has with his writing; Medviedenko struggles with his cowardice and has an unhealthy obsession about money; Dorn delivers a taciturn realism all too often; Paulina obsesses over her unrequited love and suffers from her own foolishness; and Masha deals with her cynicism and emotional dependencies in a unconventional way. Chekhov takes the time to paint a picture for the audience that even today as a society finds ways to skirt around the issues rather than address them directly with people who are closest to us.

“I think there is something profound about being freshly moved—to laugh, to think, to cry---by a theatrical work that was written in a foreign land, for a foreign culture, in and about a certain long-ago moment on the time continuum,” Altmeyer said. “I think, by looking back and beyond, and somehow seeing our own reflection, we feel a little less alone in this world and can face our own future a little more bravely.”

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School of THEATRE + DANCE

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Performances on Thursday, September 21 through 23 and 26 through 29 will have a 7:30 p.m. curtain, while September 24 and October 1 will have a 2 p.m. curtain. Tickets are \$18 for the general public, \$15 for seniors, \$15 for UF faculty and staff and \$13 for Students. Tickets can be purchased at the University Box Office, located at Gate 1 of the Stephen C. O'Connell Center. The University Box Office is open Tuesday through Friday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. and can be reached at (352) 392-1653 or by email at scoc-info@ufl.edu. Tickets will also be available 45 minutes prior to every performance and can also be purchased online at www.ticketmaster.com. Group rates are available for parties of eight or more.

The Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion is located on the UF campus at 1800 McCarty Drive, Gainesville, FL 32603. Parking is available across the street from the UF Bookstore & Welcome Center located on Museum Road.

About the School of Theatre + Dance

The School of Theatre + Dance is one of the University of Florida College of the Arts' institutionally-accredited schools. Undergraduate students can pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting, dance, musical theatre, theatre production—including costume design, lighting design and scenic design—or a Bachelor of Arts degree in dance studies or general theatre. Minors are also offered in dance and theatre as well as certificates in arts in medicine and dance in healthcare. Student organizations showcase programs and other intensives provide students with invaluable professional experiences. UF is home to three School of Theatre + Dance performance venues, including the Constans Theatre, Black Box Theatre and G-6 Studio. To learn more about the School of Theatre + Dance, including upcoming performance dates and ticket information, visit www.arts.ufl.edu/theatreanddance.

About the College of the Arts

The College of the Arts is one of the 16 colleges and more than 150 research centers and institutes at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. The College of the Arts offers baccalaureate, master's and Ph.D. degree programs in its three institutionally-accredited schools — the School of Art + Art History, School of Music and School of Theatre + Dance. The college is home to the Center for Arts in Medicine, Center for Arts and Public Policy, Center for World Arts, Digital Worlds Institute, University Galleries and the New World School of the Arts in Miami. More than 100 faculty members and approximately than 1,200 students work together daily to engage, inspire and create. The college hosts more than 300 performances, exhibitions and events each year. Faculty and students also exhibit and perform at other local, national and international venues. To learn more, visit www.arts.ufl.edu.

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