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***The New Mrs. Tesman*, a new interpretation of Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* premieres at the University of Florida Sept. 23 – Oct. 2, 2016**

Gainesville, Fla. Sept. 9, 2016 – Everyone always wonders what goes on behind closed doors. The University of Florida (UF) School of Theatre + Dance (SoTD) will be giving patrons an intimate look behind closed doors with *The New Mrs. Tesman*, adapted and directed by professor Mikell Pinkney. *The New Mrs. Tesman*'s plot follows Henrik Ibsen's landmark play, *Hedda Gabler*, but sets it in the Canadian capital of Ottawa where title character Hedda is a member of the country's visible minority dealing with the expectations set upon her as the daughter of Canada's first black Member of Parliament in the late 1950s. Performances will be offered in the Black Box Theatre in the Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion Sept. 23 thru Oct. 2, 2016. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Sept. 23-24, Sept. 27- Oct. 1, 2016 and 2 p.m. Sept. 25 and Oct. 2, 2016.

"*The New Mrs. Tesman* will mark the first time in decades that the School of Theatre + Dance has produced a play by Ibsen, considered by many as the 'father of modern drama,'" Pinkney said.



Actors Chelsi Stancil (left) and Ernest Briggs in *The New Mrs. Tesman*

Pinkney, who teaches script analysis, multicultural theatre and African American theatre studies, and acting on both the graduate and undergraduate level, began working on the adaptation in the spring semester of the 2016 academic year and went through several revisions to get to where the script is.

"This piece of theatre really makes the audience a true voyeur," Pinkney said. "It gives the audience a chance to see what goes on behind closed doors as it unfolds onstage. The adaptation I've crafted delves into the nuances and brings about specificity in the piece that Ibsen's original text does not address. I know that most of the audience won't notice those tiny

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details, but I think that for both the actors and myself, it makes it that much easier to understand the characters and to make choices during the process.”

Pinkney has graced the SoTD stages for many productions including: *Gem of the Ocean*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Man of Mode or Sir Fopling Flutter*, *Hamlet*, *The Ohio State Murders*, *The Cornbread Man*, *Noises Off*, *The Mousetrap*, and *The Women*. This past spring he directed *Honky*, which was well received by both the public and student populations of Gainesville.

Tickets for the UF production are \$18 for the general public, \$15 for UF faculty/staff and seniors, and \$13 for students. Season and group prices are also available. Tickets are available through the University Box Office located at Gate 3 of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium on Gale Lemerand Drive (next to the Heisman statues), by calling 352-392-1653 or at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com). The University Box Office is open Tuesday through Friday from 12-5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tickets can also be purchased at the Constans Theatre Box Office starting 45 minutes prior to the performance.

The Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion is located at 687 McCarty Drive, Gainesville, FL 32611. On-campus parking is available at the Reitz Union garage and the Museum Road parking lot. Guests are strongly encouraged to pick up tickets early, as shows run the risk of being sold out.

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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