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***Pity for the Wild* Introduces Audiences to a ‘Grotesque Version’ of Tennessee Williams
at the University of Florida March 17-26**

Gainesville, Fla., March 7, 2017 – What do a pair of co-dependent women, two fatigued male figures thrown together after the fallout of a nuclear war and various inhabitants at a rickety bunkhouse for permanent transients all have in common? How about an evening of unexpected works all written by Tennessee Williams and performed by the University of Florida School of Theatre + Dance students. *Pity for the Wild: Three Grotesques by Tennessee Williams* will both give the audience a chance to explore three of Williams’ lesser-known works as well as introduce the famous playwright to a new generation of theatre patrons. The three works presented will be *Something Unspoken*, *The Chalky White Substance*, and *The Gnädiges Fräulein*. The show, co-directed by UF theatre faculty Tiza Garland and Ralf Remshardt, will be performed in the Black Box Theatre in the Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion on UF’s campus **March 17-26, 2017**.

The evening of one acts will differ in style and theme from Williams’ better-known works like *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, or *The Glass Menagerie*, all of which contain what Garland and Remshardt describe as, “writing about tragic family relationships of the Gothic South.” *Something Unspoken*, written in 1958 explores the co-dependent relationship of Miss Cornelia Scott, a wealthy southern spinster, and her secretary of fifteen years, Grace.

The Chalky White Substance explores two male figures, Mark and Luke, as they meet at the edge of a vast canyon in a world where nuclear wars have wiped out nearly everything and everyone. The two, layered in a chalky white substance that covers the few inhabitants of the world, vie for precious resources like food, water, and warmth and comfort of human contact.

The Gnädiges Fräulein is described best as a “tragic comedy, coming off funny one moment and sad the next.” The piece takes place in a rickety bunkhouse for what Williams calls “permanent transients”. The cast of characters includes a gossip columnist who specializes in society gossip, a former Viennese vaudevillian, the old woman who runs the place, and local bird named the Cocaloony bird to name a few. This unusual cast of characters and their relationships with one another forms the true heart of this absurd and unconventional piece of theatre.

“Williams referred to his one-acts and short stories as ‘diversions,’” Garland and Remshardt said. “With this in mind, we hope to divert your attention from the typical titles of Tennessee Williams and provide an evening of divertissement.”

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School of THEATRE + DANCE

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA / COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Williams was a brilliant and prolific playwright, albeit troubled and at times self-destructive. He authored numerous master works for the stage, including those mentioned above as well as *The Night of the Iguana*, *The Rose Tattoo*, *Summer and Smoke*, *Suddenly Last Summer* and *Camino Real*. Many of his plays have been made into successful and landmark films. *Pity for the Wild* offers a unique look into this brilliant man's heart, as well as his vision for the "grotesque."

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 1 of the Stephen C. O'Connell by calling 352-392-1653 or at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com). The University Box Office is open Tuesdays through Fridays 12-5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 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 selling 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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