



'Frogs (Re-) Imagined' Makes Stage Debut at Stockton PAC

Performances Set for April 9-13, 2014

For Immediate Release; photo attached, with caption below

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Galloway Township, NJ- "Frogs (Re-) Imagined" will make its stage debut at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey's Performing Arts Center. The production will run **April 9-12, 2014** at 7:30 p.m. and **April 13, 2014** at 3 p.m.

The Stockton Box Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and 90 minutes prior to the performance. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$8 for students and seniors. Ticket orders can be made online at www.stockton.edu/pac or by calling the Box Office at (609)-652-9000.

"Frogs (Re-) Imagined" is an original, modern telling of Aristophanes' classic comedy, 'The Frogs.' It gets a fresh treatment in this updated version, which tells of the hilarious yet poignant musical adventures of a rock star, Bonoff, and his roadie, Xanthias, as they journey to the Underworld. The two have a mission: to bring back a departed pop music legend who, by returning to the world of the living, will help save mankind from destruction.

"Frogs (Re-) Imagined" is written and composed by Rob Gregg, dean of General Studies, and his brother, Al Gregg.

"The origin of 'Frogs (Re-) Imagined' came while I was visiting Athens," Dean Gregg explained.

A group of faculty and students from Stockton participated in a conference at the University of Athens.

David Roessel, professor of Greek Language and Literature, assigned his students to go

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to the Theatre of Dionysus and read from a play.

“Tyler Riley, a Stockton student, and I found a spot to sit in the theatre and began to read from sections of Aristophanes’ ‘The Frogs,’” said Dean Gregg. “As I was reading, I was struck by how wonderful the play was and I noticed the obvious similarities between Dionysus and Xanthias, and Don Quixote and Sancho Panza. Cervantes must have known the Aristophanes play!”

For the remainder of Dean Gregg’s visit to Athens, he wandered around the city thinking about how the play could be adapted to the modern world.

“I made the mistake of saying to David [Roessel] that I was thinking along these lines, and he immediately said that we needed to develop a new version for ourselves and workshop it. I needed to write a new version of Aristophanes’ ‘Frogs,’ which I thought would be a very daunting task,” Dean Gregg said.

“Frogs (Re-) Imagined” director Ken Kaissar, adjunct professor of Theatre, has directed original pieces in the past. “What I like about new work is that the audience is exploring it for the first time, too,” said Kaissar. “I’m totally free to experiment and discover for the first time what this show can be. What we do on this production will influence further productions, but I’m working with a clean slate.”

Costume designer and Stockton student Emily Albertson enjoyed the challenge of finding the balance between realism and the “stylized look of Warhol.”

“Being able to create and pull inspiration from real people has provided the basis on which the more creative parts of the costume come in,” Albertson said. “The variety of costumes in this show is very visually exciting, and you’ll see anything from reptiles to rock idols!”

Stockton alumnus David Carey workshoped the play over the summer and is a member of the original cast. “I am proud to have been on this journey,” said Carey. “We first took the play to Greece, and after all the workshops, simulations and research, we arrived at this moment. We can finally put ‘Frogs’ up on its own legs.”

The Stockton Performing Arts Center is located on the campus of The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Jimmie Leeds Road, Pomona (Galloway Township). For patrons with special needs, the Performing Arts Center offers wheelchair accessible seating, listening assistive devices, and large type programs. Please identify any needs you may have when making a reservation.

This program has been funded in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through the Local Arts Grant administered by the Atlantic County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Photo caption: Stockton students rehearse for stage debut of “Frogs (Re-) Imagined.” Performances run April 9-13 at the Stockton Performing Arts Center.

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