

Friday, Nov 06, 2015

Psychological themes abound in OU theatre production of 'Equus'

At 8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12, the theatre program at Oakland University will open its production of Peter Shaffer's "Equus," a contemporary classic that startled audiences with its innovation and emotional power when it first opened in the 1970s. The original 1975 Broadway production won the **Tony Award** for Best Play, the **New York Drama Critics' Circle Award** for Best Play and the **Drama Desk Award** for Outstanding New Foreign Play.

Essentially a detective story that investigates the "why," not the "who," "Equus" is centered on the relationship between psychiatrist Martin Dysart and Alan Strang, a 17-year old boy who has blinded six horses. What in his superficially normal life can have driven Alan to such an unspeakable crime?

Kevin Corcoran, professor of psychology and dean of OU's College of Arts and Sciences, has spoken with the cast about the forces at work in "Equus." He said, "This play invites the audience to consider self-discovery, family dynamics, the struggle of adolescence, and the boundary between reality and illusion."



OU theatre production of "Equus" runs from Nov. 12-22 in Varner Studio Theatre. (Photo by JLBoone Photography)

This four-time Tony Award-winning psychological puzzle is provocative, challenging and dark-edged.

"Equus" contains mature themes, nudity and strong language. It is not recommended for children under 17.

There will be nine performances between Nov. 12 and Nov. 22, 2015 in Varner Studio Theatre, which is located on the Oakland University campus. Maps of the campus are available at oakland.edu/map or by searching for "Varner Hall" on a smartphone. Ample free parking is available.

Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$8 for students at all shows, and for everyone at the Friday, Nov. 20, 10 a.m. matinee. They may be purchased online without service fees at startickets.com or by phone at (800) 585-3737. They can also be purchased at the Varner Box Office on OU's campus. Tickets ordered online or by phone can be picked up at the box office one hour before the performance begins. Complete ticket information is available at oakland.edu/mtd/tickets.

For more information on Music, Theatre and Dance programs and performances, call (248) 370-2030 or visit oakland.edu/mtd.

Full schedule:

Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015 at 8 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 13, 2015 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015 at 2 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 19, 2015 at 8 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 20, 2015 at 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015 at 2 p.m.