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For Immediate Release

UT production of Shakespeare's HENRY V reveals the warrior king's darker side
October 16-18, 23-25

The University of Toledo Department of Theatre & Film will present Shakespeare's HENRY V, opening Friday, October 16 in the UT Center for Performing Arts Center Theatre. Often portrayed as chivalrous, the title character in the UT production reveals a darker, warmongering side.

The Battle of Agincourt, an enormous success for Henry and the main action of the play, was not an epic battle with breathtaking swordfights on horseback and longbow archers saving the day. In actuality the French army got mired in mud because of their heavy armor and became sitting ducks for the English. Most recently, French academics have declared that the English behaved like war criminals, murdering prisoners and nobility who had surrendered in atrocious ways, such as setting people on fire, and showing no mercy.

Agincourt winds up becoming historically unimportant since Henry died before he could claim the French crown the battle entitled him to. So why does Shakespeare write about it almost 200 years later?

Director Irene Alby says, "Ultimately, Shakespeare's histories are not documentaries, but a reflection on human nature, at its best and worst. HENRY V is not meant to portray the king as a hero, but rather to unveil the corruption of power, the manipulation of the masses through propaganda and ultimately to portray him as a warmonger."

Interestingly, the UT production of HENRY V coincides with the 600th Anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt. The play's last performance, October 25, is the actual anniversary date. Alby says she hopes this serendipitous timing of the production and the battle's anniversary will give audiences a reason to pause and reflect on the often disastrous and tragic consequences of war, particularly wars fought for ego and glory.

Cast (Roles)

Madi Artz (*Bardolph/Katherine/Michael Williams*)
Carlos A. Baez, Jr. (*Exeter*)
Kaitlyn M. Beacom (*Pistol*)

Davion T. Brown (*Westmoreland/Capt. Jamy/John Bates*)
Keeyong Hong (*Ambassador/Charles VI, King of France*)
Wonhee Kim (*Hostess/Isabel, Queen of France/French Soldier*)
Qarie Marshall (*Chorus*)
Tyler C. Mitchell (*Archbishop of Canterbury/Capt. Fluellen*)
Kenzie N. Phillips (*Constable/Alice/Attendant*)
Reshi R. Phillips (*Bishop of Ely/Boy/Cambridge*)
Olivia Pierce (*Dauphin/Scroop/Capt. Gower/Attendant*)
Austin Rambo (*Nym/Orleans/Capt. MacMorris*)
Nolan Thomaswick (*Henry V*)
Diane White (*Grey/Governor/Montjoy/Phillip, Duke of Burgundy/Ramboures*)

Performance dates/times:

October 16-18 and October 23-25. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday shows are at 2 p.m. The play is about 2 ½ hours and will include an intermission. The opening performance will also include a talkback discussion after the show. Free refreshments will be served.

Tickets

\$15 General Admission

\$10 UT Faculty, Staff, and Alumni, Seniors (60+), and members of the Military

\$8 Students/Children

Tickets are available online at www.utoledo.Tix.com, by phone 419.530.ARTS (2787) or by visiting the UT Center for Performing Arts Box Office in person. No extra fees, no matter how you order.

Follow the show on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/events/192676937730168/>

See the rest of the Current Season online <http://www.utoledo.edu/comm-arts/theatre/film/currentseason/index.html>

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