



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TOLEDO
1872

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Department of Theatre and Film

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Friday, October 10, 2014
For Immediate Release

UT Department of Theatre & Film to present Elmer Rice's THE ADDING MACHINE
Oct. 24-26, Oct. 31-Nov. 2

The University of Toledo Department of Theatre and Film 2014-2015 Season will open its first play of the season Friday, October 24 with its production of THE ADDING MACHINE, written by American playwright Elmer Rice and directed by Irene Alby. THE ADDING MACHINE follows the story of an ordinary accountant, Mr. Zero, who murders his boss after learning he will be replaced at work by an adding machine. This action – his only unique and spontaneous act after a lifetime of obedience – and its consequences are explored in Elmer Rice's expressionistic play.

After he is sentenced and executed for murder, Mr. Zero finds his afterlife to be a most unexpected experience. Funny, sad, poignant and startling, this expressionist, metaphorical play will be a visually rich contemplation on right and wrong, life and death.

The play's director, Irene Alby says, "The character of Zero is an everyman. He's the lowest common denominator, who blames everyone else, never has an original thought, never thinks outside the box. He's a person who does what he's told and doesn't question it. His fear of what others think of him is his driving motivation in life."

Alby adds that though the age of the play dates it somewhat, it's still very relevant to today. "We're taking the play out of its time and making it more timeless. Its themes are about dehumanizing technology, increased isolation and the mechanization of humanity. Today we have machines replacing jobs that people used to do, the outsourcing of jobs, the effects of texting and social media replacing face-to-face interaction."

She says that the play will achieve this by weaving modern technology into the action, and making use of highly choreographed and heightened movement to enhance the expressionistic style of the writing.

Interim Chair of the UT Department of Theatre & Film says that another important feature of this production is the collective and individual expertise of the department faculty. "The experimental aspects of the department's offerings owe much to the creative genius of its faculty." Alby received her MFA from Columbia University and has performed under the direction of leading directors such as Andrei Serban and Ralph Lee in New York. Alby also

worked previously with the renowned Canadian company, The Other Theatre, in Montreal on many productions, one of which won the Montreal English Critic Circle Award.

The work of costume designer, Erica Frank, includes collaboration with the Henson Puppet Workshop project, *The Collector of Lies*. She was Costume Designer for the feature film *Breaking at the Edge*; Specialty Costume Crafter for the NBC's Television Show, *Revolution*; Tailor/Set Costumer on the feature film, *The Hunger Games*; and was Assistant Designer for 20th Century Fox Film, *Neighborhood Watch*.

Set designer Daniel Thobias is experienced and inventive designer, having earned his MFA in design at North Carolina School of the Arts, has various regional and national theatrical design credits including Opera Santa Barbara, the Cuttingball Theatre, and the Toledo Symphony.

THE ADDING MACHINE opens Friday, October 24 and runs through Sunday, October 26, and Friday, October 31 through Sunday, November 2. Friday and Saturday performances are at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday shows are at 2 p.m.

Admission/Tickets Play tickets are \$12–General Public, \$10–Faculty, Staff, Alumni & Seniors, and \$7–Students. A group discount of 15% off applies any time 8 or more tickets are purchased in a single order.

Tickets are available*: Online: www.utoledo.edu/BoxOffice By Phone: 419.530.2375 At the Center for Performing Arts Box Office: Towerview & W Rocket Blvd, UT Main Campus *All major credit cards are accepted (AMEX, DISC, MC, VISA), UT Rocket Cards are accepted at the CPA Box Office ticket window only.

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