

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## REVIEW | “The Comedy of Errors”

Michael Michelizzi

[mmichell@uwsuper.edu](mailto:mmichell@uwsuper.edu)

It was a comedy! With errors!

The University of Wisconsin-Superior Theater teamed up with Wise Fool Theater to produce a modern rendition of William Shakespeare’s first, and shortest, comedy, “The Comedy of Errors.” Directed by Chani Ninneman, the play was the first collaboration between the UWS Theater and the Wise Fool team. Featured UWS students included Anissa Peppersack, Kitara Peterson, and Tygen Lundgren.

“Comedy” follows the story of two twin brothers and their twin servants, separated at a young age, in their quest to find each other. A comedic set of events ensued as one twin’s wife confused the other twin for her husband, while the other twin refused to pay the goldsmith for a chain he never

received. Eventually, the two families are reunited as the characters realized there are two sets of twins and servants.

The actors in “Comedy” did an excellent job taking Shakespeare’s comedy and redesigning the setting to 1970s New York. While maintaining the original Elizabethan English, the cast was dressed in classic outfits of the ‘70s and worked on a set that captured life in the boroughs.

Chandler Oja, in particular, performed well as Antipholus of Syracuse. Oja convincingly portrayed a man often confused for his twin brother that he was unaware he was being mistaken for.

Overall, “Comedy” was a good learning opportunity for audience members. However, when the play was presented as a modern take on the Shake-

spearean classic, many attendees expected a modern translation, too. While the play was enjoyable and hilarious due to its physical acting, many audience members may have been confused by the complex dialogue.



Jennie Ross, Cory Netland, and Anissa Peppersack  
Photo by David Hoole



The Cast of “The Comedy of Errors”

Photo by David Hoole

## A musical goodbye

Questan Barker

[qbarker@uwsuper.edu](mailto:qbarker@uwsuper.edu)

Music has a way of bringing people together. No matter the day or events taking place, music has a large influence over most people.

Maria Puglisi is currently a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Superior. She is a musical performer, but not in the modern style.

Puglisi sings Opera music.

When Puglisi sings, listeners wonder, “How does she do that?” Over a long period of time, she has put in a tremen-

dous amount of work to achieve the musical level she is now. Puglisi said, “I have had seven years of vocal lessons with Dr. Fingalson.” Dr. Vicki Fingalson Madison is an associate professor of voice and opera workshop in the Music Department.

In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Bachelor of Music at UWS, Puglisi had a recital April 17, 2019. The event was held in the Webb Recital Hall in UWS’s Holden Fine and Applied Arts building.

Upon arrival, programs

were handed out by student volunteers. Inside, there were microphones hung from the ceiling and light reflected off the wooden walls. The hall was flooded with classmates, peers, teachers, friends and family of Puglisi in support for her final performance.

As Puglisi walked on-stage, her emerald green dress made her red hair and smile stand out. The audience applauded, then she took a deep breath and began to sing.

When the final lines in Puglisi’s last song, How

Can I Keep from Singing, are sung, Puglisi and audience members alike were moved to tears.

After Puglisi’s performance ended, she walked amongst audience members to thank them for attending and to take pictures. Then the music hall emptied as attendees moved to the lobby laughing, chatting, and celebrating. This recital was one of many in Puglisi’s college singing career, and the last.

Puglisi said, “[Singing] has given me a chance to develop confidence and

independence...and it is a great stress relief. There is no better stress relief than singing high notes.”

After the performance, an attendee from the College of Saint Scholastica said, “I have known Maria since middle school where we used to have choral competitions between the two of us.” The student shared they attended the event because they wanted to see Puglisi “come full circle.”

## Stagecraft your thing? How about a theatrical fling?

Nicole Koski

[nkoskil@uwsuper.edu](mailto:nkoskil@uwsuper.edu)

Theater is an organization offered at the University of Wisconsin-Superior looking to give students their voice.

According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, involvement in extracurricular activities make students “three times as likely to perform in the top quartile.” And joining a campus organization can help students create relationships with peers and staff members, which then reduces feelings of isolation.

Cathy Fank, the Director of UWS Theater, said, “Taking the risk of performing for others teaches students to trust their thoughts, ideas, and abilities. Self-confidence is a key attribute for anyone in any job market.”

Fank believes performing in theater helps expand creativity, increase communication, self-confidence, compassion, and teaches students problem solving in real time.

“Students learn how to communicate the who,

what, where and why [of a scene] to an audience. Improvisation teaches quick thinking and adaptability. And sometimes [acting is] just plain fun, which reduces stress and improves motivation!” Fank said.

This outlook is shared by Kitara Peterson, a current member of the UWS Theater program. She has been involved with theater for 16 years, but has only recently joined Theater at UWS. Peterson said, “Theater has helped me a lot with

my...social skills, as well as confidence... It makes me view everything from job interviews, to meeting new friends as a chance to express myself rather than be nervous and quiet.”

UWS Theater performs two productions in an academic year. Fall 2018 semester produced Lauren Gunderson’s I and You. Spring 2019 semester produced Shakespeare’s The Comedy of Errors.

Peterson and Fank encourage everyone to become involved in theater

and reap the benefits.

Peterson said, “For anyone thinking of joining theater I would say absolutely go for it. There are no downsides apart from loving it too much... It’s a wonderful way to make friends, think out of the norm, and explore what makes you, you [with] lots of other people.”