

Kennedy Theatre

UNIVERSITY of HAWAII at MĀNOA



Contact: Emma Demaris, Late Night Theatre Publicity Director
Office Phone: (808) 956-2598
Fax: (808) 956-4232
Box Office: (808) 956-7655
Email: edemaris@hawaii.edu

Department of Theatre + Dance
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
1770 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96822
Web: manoa.hawaii.edu/liveonstage/late-night-3/

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DON'T BE ABSURD
An Evening of Existential Drama
February 16-17 & 24-25, 2018

Late Night Theatre at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa kicks off the spring semester with *DON'T BE ABSURD: An Evening of Existential Drama*, a double-bill featuring Samuel Beckett's *Play* and Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story*. Both Absurdist dramas, it will be an evening exploring the absolute power of language.

Play, Directed by MFA candidate in Directing Ike Webster, tells of the shared experiences between a man, his wife and his mistress, each character individually encased in a large urn. Although the show is highly abstract, Webster explains the universality of the production due to humanity's natural inclination to always be in search of something. "We are all searching for something... Our inability to 'let things be,' even when faced with the absolute uselessness of searching is what defines us. *Play* is about that search. *Play* is that search. It is the inability to let go." Webster has compiled a fine company of performers with an intimate three person cast including: KoDee Martin, a UHM student concurrently pursuing a graduate degree in Math and a Bachelor's in Theatre. Martin is flanked on either side by Rachel Uyeno and Anastasia Fiala-Watkins, both MFA candidates in Western Performance. Director Webster, most recently, was the Director and Music Director of *A Charlie Brown Christmas* at Diamond Head Theatre.

Sharing the evening's program, is New York City-based director and fellow MFA candidate in Directing, Jackob G. Hofmann directing *The Zoo Story*, which follows the events that transpire when a

successful publishing executive is confronted by an erratic and highly effusive loner on a bench in Central Park. With only two actors and a single bench commanding the stage, *The Zoo Story* is an exploration of the human condition and our need to connect with one other. Hofmann explains that his production is “economically bare-bones” and that his main focus of this production is the magnificently complex characters created by Albee and his powerful use of language. “Albee’s use of language is timeless, as well as timely. It is a gorgeously disturbing narrative. Our goal is to present an evening of cracklingly provocative theatre.” With long-time performer Saul Rollason heading up the role of Peter and UH Mānoa senior Jeff Brackett (a Mānoa Valley Theatre favorite) as Jerry, the production is sure to accomplish just that.

Performances run February 16, 17, 24 and 25 in the Earle Ernst Lab Theatre on the Mānoa Campus. Friday and Saturday shows begin at 11:00pm and the Sunday “matin-eve” begins at 9:00pm. Tickets are available at the Kennedy Theatre Box Office one hour before curtain. There will be no intermission.

WHAT: *Don't Be Absurd: An Evening of Existential Drama*
A Double-Bill: *Play* by Samuel Beckett and *The Zoo Story* by Edward Albee

WHO: Late Night Theatre hosted by UHM Department of Theatre + Dance

WHEN: February 16-17 & 24-25, 2018
FRI/SAT 11:00pm and SUN 9:00pm

WHERE: Earle Ernst Lab Theatre at Kennedy Theatre

TICKETS: \$10 Regular
\$8 Seniors, Military, UH Faculty/Staff
\$5 UH Mānoa Students with valid UHM ID

Tickets are available for purchase at the Kennedy Theatre Box Office one hour before curtain.

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