

## Clarence Brown Theatre announces 2013-14 season

By Amy McRary

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With its final 2012-13 season play “On the Razzle” now on stage, the Clarence Brown Theatre has finalized its eight-play 2013-14 season. Those productions include a drama starring actress Carol Mayo Jenkins, a holiday favorite and a season-ending Monty Python romp.

Several other plays offer lesser-known perspectives on events in history. For the most part, selections were written in the last three decades.

“It’s a really great season with comedies, dramas and some good old musical theater,” said Clarence Brown Managing Director David Byrd. Byrd was hired after the season was decided; he promoted its variety in a recent interview.

The season begins with the Sept. 5-22 comedy “Noises Off” in the Clarence Brown Theatre. The 1982 farce is a backstage look at the theater, Byrd said. A completely star-crossed English theater group presents a production called “Nothing On” but nothing seems to go right.

“It’s a fun, fun play. It’s one of the funniest shows there is about the theater. The audience will have a blast, especially if they are theatergoers curious about what happens back stage,” said Byrd.

The other 2013-14 plays are:

n “Our Country’s Good,” Oct. 3-20 in the Carousel Theatre directed by Clarence Brown Artistic Director and UT Theatre Department Head Calvin MacLean. The drama is based on real events. Set in 1788 Australia it tells the story of British prisoners who settle a penal colony in Sydney. When morale and supplies run low, a prison guard tries to raise spirits by staging a play with the convicts as actors. Recommended for high school students and up, “Our Country’s Good” includes strong language and brief nudity.

n The UT Lab Theater Oct. 24-Nov. 10 production “CTRL+ALT+DELETE” looks at ambition, greed and commercialism. The comedy focuses on a young man who masterminds the creation of the newest handheld device that will revolutionize communication.

n Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” returns Nov. 27-Dec. 15 to the Clarence

Brown. Again directed by Casey Sams, the production is the adaptation presented last year.

n The period drama “The Whipping Man” is Jan. 30-Feb 16 in the Carousel Theatre. In April 1865 a wounded Jewish Confederate soldier returns home to find it ruined and abandoned. The only people there are two former slaves also raised Jewish. The three celebrate Passover as they look at their past and future. Recommended for high school and up, “The Whipping Man” contains strong language. The play by Matthew Lopez “has taken the theater world by storm,” said Byrd, and been presented by numerous regional companies.

n Jenkins stars as widow Carrie Watts in Horton Foote’s play “The Trip to Bountiful” Feb. 20-March 9.

n “Wrens,” presented March 27-April 13 in the Lab Theatre, is set in the final days of World War II. Its title characters are young women in the British Women’s Royal Navy Service (WRNS). “These young women are trying to find their way in a changing world,” Byrd said. “It’s a powerful play for young female actors.”

n Monty Python’s musical “Spamalot” ends the season April 24-May 11 in the Clarence Brown Theatre. The comedy is based on the 1975 film “Monty Python and the Holy Grail.” “Spamalot” won the 2005 Tony Award for Best Musical. The production is recommended for high schoolers and older.

