

Division of Performing Arts presents 'Metamorphoses'

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Just in time for Hot Dog Day and Family weekend, the Alfred University Performing Arts' production of "Metamorphoses" is arriving. Performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, April 13 -16, in the C.D. Smith theater in the Miller Performing Arts Center. Reservations are encouraged, and may be made by calling 607.871.2828 or by going to the on-line box office at las.alfred.edu/performing_arts General admission tickets are \$4 each, with \$2 for students. Alfred University students are admitted free with identification. With this production, the AU Division of Performing Arts will do something it has never done before: stage a play that is set entirely in water. "Water is an interesting medium for the actors to work in," says Prof. Stephen Crosby, Division Chair of Performing Arts and director of this production. "Metamorphoses" is a play, written by Mary Zimmerman and based on the poem by Ovid. It brings to life Ovid's vision of classic myths. This production's set is more elaborate than what audiences are used to seeing at Alfred University. The stage for this production is slightly raised, and there is a large pool of water right in the middle. The fact that the production will take place in water provides quite a challenge to the performers as well as the director. Sean O'Skea, assistant professor of theater design, designed the set and oversaw the technical aspects of the production. "When dealing with water, you have to make sure that everything is well sealed so that there's no unexpected leaking," Crosby says. The challenge of staging this play, however, is not unwelcome. Crosby has had the idea in mind for staging this play for quite a while. He says he hesitated for as long as he did because the technical work was so extensive and he didn't want to overwhelm anyone. This time around, however, he pitched the idea, and everyone loved it and decided to go forward with it., he said. Crosby is looking forward to, not only having such a unique medium for his actors, but also to having the story brought to life here on Alfred University's stage. "This play will be well-loved within the Alfred community. The content works perfectly, because it is academic as well as fun. The human aspects of the play are something that everyone can relate to." The play has been seen both on and off Broadway. It won the 2002 Tony Award for Best Director and it was nominated for Best Play and Scenic design.