

'You Can't Take It with You' on stage at AU

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You Can't Take It With You, a hardy and hearty American comedy of manners by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman will spring onto the Alfred University campus, with performances April 5-8 in the C.D. Smith Theatre, Miller Performing Arts Center. Performances for You Can't Take It With You are at 8 each evening. Reservations are recommended. Tickets are \$5 general admission, \$3 area students, \$1 for AU students with valid identification. To reserve tickets call 607.871.2828 or click on the "Box Office" link at <http://las.alfred.edu/per...>. The play opens the eccentric Vanderhof-Sycamore household to the public. This mansion of madness, where each highly individualized person pursues hobbies and edifying pastimes with no concern for anything other than one another, is a study in communal confirmation of personal goals, said Dr. Becky Prophet, professor of theatre, who is directing the spring production. The patriarch of the domestic chaos, Grandpa Vanderhof is the founder of the open home with its single-minded commitment to benign neglect. Some 35 years before the beginning of the play, Grandpa rode the elevator up to his office in Manhattan, just as he had day after day for years. This particular day, however, he stayed on the elevator and rode it right back down to the street level. He never returned to his office, but he returned to sanity, he claimed. Since then he has watched his daughter and then granddaughters grow up, while he pursues his avocations of snake-raising and attending graduations. He has freely admitted many total strangers to the society of his homewhere they have stayed to live without working except to work at living life with full enjoyment. His daughter Penny Sycamore writes plays or paintswichever has the stronger draw for her. His son-in-law Paul is often in the basement with an ex-ice delivery man experimenting with making the most fanciful fireworks any one has ever seen. Granddaughter Essie has been studying ballet for eight years all through her 20s from a blustery Russian migr. Essie's husband Ed loves play the xylophone and to set type and print anything, even the menu for dinner. Alice Sycamore introduces her fianc and his stuff-shirted parents to the hum of the household, "and from there, things really begin to pop," said Prophet. She notes that audiences have loved the social conscience and the zany lives of the characters since You Can't Take It With You was first performed in December 1936. Alfred University's production in 2006, will feature costumes designed by Sara Schnick, a senior from Manchester, NH, lighting designed by sophomore Courtney Rawleigh of Rochester, and sound designed by senior Mike Smogor of Greencastle, IN. The set for the Vanderhof-Sycamore home is designed by Sean O'Skea, assistant professor of theater, and built under the supervision of Jen McClure of Alfred, the assistant technical director for the Division of Performing Arts and an AU alumna. Brittany Felgate, a first-year student from Rumney, NH, Carrie Steere a sophomore from Almond, and Caitlin Gallagher, a first-year student from Carlisle, PA, along with McClure will procure props that range from kittens to books on Trotsky and from snakes to fireworks. The cast of 19 for You Can't Take It With You includes AU alumnus Keith Gregory of Alfred as Grandpa Vanderhof. Senior Hailley Field of Malvern, PA plays the voluble Penny. First-year students make up her immediate family: Jeff Baxter from Ithaca, NY, plays her husband Paul; Caitlin Casey from Idina, MN, plays daughter Essie, and Kate Naron from Oswego, NY, plays daughter Alice. Surrounding these characters are Essie's husband Ed Carmichael played by senior Jonas Alcantara of Reading, PA; ice man cum pyrotechnician Mr. DePinna created by sophomore Matt Mingle of Turbotville, PA; a central servant, Rheba played by senior Jaimie Pinkham of Ellsworth, ME, and her boyfriend Donald, played by first-year student Jeff Grigel of Potsdam, NY. Alice's fianc Tony is played by sophomore Frank Alegria of New York City, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kirby, are portrayed by junior Jared Hilliker of Greenfield, MA, and senior Megan Shove of Coxsackie, NY. Delightful characters who come and go from the household include blustery ballet teacher Kolenkhov, played by sophomore Bryan Farthing of Annapolis, MD; a down-on-her-luck-actress created by first-year student Sharee Allen of Cincinatti, OH; and an expatriated Russian Grand Duchess played by junior Lily Katz of Philadelphia. Junior Shawn Isaacs of Buffalo plays IRS Agent Henderson, while the invading "G-Men" are played by first-year Shane Farnum of Waldeboro, ME, and senior Carlos Bido of New York City. The madness of these many will be monitored by first-year student April Nell from Box Elder, SD in her first full production as stage manager.