AU Student Theater Production Mixes up 1600s and 1950s -- in 1999
11/24/99

Alfred, NY -- Alfred University will present a very free adaptation of Moliere's comedy "Scapin" Wednesday through Saturday (Dec. 1-4).Curtain time each night is 8 p.m. in the C.D. Smith Theater, Miller Performing Arts Center, on campus. For ticket information, call 871-2828."'Scapin' is a bright and ... fast-paced comedy of intrigue," said Becky Prophet, professor of theater and director-adaptor of the play originally written in 1671, two years before Moliere's death at age 51. Scapin, the Scamp, is a valet for a young man from a good family headed by an aging, despotic father. Next door lives a similar family, complete with dictatorial father, suffering young lover, and roguish servant. As the play unfolds, Scapin, with the help of the servant next door and the two young men, tries to outsmart the fathers and bring the bumpy circuitous plot to a happy end.The AU production is set in the 1950s at Darnold's, a diner and soda shop. Costumes are designed by junior Kadie Midlam and created by Alfred resident Debra MacCrea, and Michael Dempsey, associate professor, does the scenery and lighting.Scapin, played by AU junior Joe Miller, runs the restaurant, often teamed with his brother, played by freshman Andrew Shaw. The fathers in Moliere's original become two grumpy old men who own the soda shop, acted by junior Clinton Powell and sophomore Jason Shattuck. Portraying their sons are sophomore Hank Preston and freshman Pat Scahill, whose loves are played by Emily Tucker, a freshman, and Ashley Long, a sophomore.Other characters are Darla, wife of one of the old grumps, acted by senior Courtney Fleming; Scapin's mother Anna, created by sophomore Laura Randall; and a nanny, played by sophomore Marissa Domanski. Waiters and maids with names like Mr. Clean and Skippy are played by Jordan Armellin, Joshua First, and Cameron Mills, all first-year AU students; Kristin Grillo, a sophomore; and juniors Callie Hastings and Earl Stephens.