

Alfred University theatre day camp troupe to perform Friday

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"Wiley and the Hairy Man" by Suzan Zeder will be performed at 7 p.m. Friday, July 11, in the C.D. Smith Theatre, Miller Performing Arts Center, on the Alfred University campus. A delightful tale set in an Alabama swamp, "Wiley and the Hairy Man" focuses on young Wiley and whether or not he can overcome his very real and gargantuan fears. Suitable for children of all ages, in this version by Suzan Zeder, Wiley faces the dangerous and meaner than mean Hairy Man, but not with his mother's magic. Mammy and Hairy Man have fought for a long time for the position of the best conjurer in the whole Southwest County. Wiley has no magical powers. As the play opens, Wiley can only run away from or hide from the Hairy Man. The members of the Alfred University Theatre Day Camps will present this tale with no scenery and very few props, said Becky Prophet, professor of theatre at AU and director of the theatre camp program. "The theatricality alone makes the performance charming and fun," said Prophet. The chorus provides the environments and the magic as Wiley travels deep into the swamp with his faithful dog, Dog, to find wood for a hound house. Like all kids, he doesn't want to go. He is first pressured, then helped by Mammy. Too soon, the moment comes when the Hairy Man has tricked them all--Dog, Mammy and then Wiley. At that moment, Wiley has to rely on his own intelligence and quick wits to face down the horribly, hairy, Hairy Man. This 45-minute piece will begin promptly at 7 p.m. in the C.D. Smith Theatre in the Miller Performing Arts Center on the north end of the Alfred University campus. Donations of \$3 per person, or \$10 for a family are requested at the door.