

◆**Majestic Players Storm Kansas City**◆ on AU stage Oct. 3-6
9/19/12

Award-winning New York City Director Abigail Zealey Bess brings Patrick Link's "The Majestic Players Storm Kansas City" to Alfred University's CD Smith III Theater stage Wednesday, Oct. 3 through Saturday, Oct. 6 for its world premiere. Performances begin at 8 each evening in the Miller Performing Arts Center facility.

The comedy, full of hilarity, adventure, and zeal, involves young actor Davie, who believes he has landed the opportunity of a lifetime: a lead role with a traveling group of theater players. He will soon find out, however, that his fellow players are in reality a rowdy group of robbers who are planning their grandest scheme yet.

Reservations are required. Tickets may be obtained by visiting the online Box Office (las.alfred.edu/performing-arts/events/), emailing performs@alfred.edu, or calling the Box Office at 607.871.2828.

The production is sponsored by the Alfred University Division of Performing Arts in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The cast includes students and Division Chair and Professor of Theater Stephen Crosby, an Equity actor, director and writer who has worked professionally in New York, Los Angeles, and in regional theaters, most notably the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis. Bess has worked in New York's film and theater community as both director and filmmaker with such legendary names as Sidney Lumet, John Leguizamo, Kevin Smith, Matt LeBlanc, and Frank Whaley. Under the auspices of her company Weird Sister, founded in 1997, she has collaborated with many established and new writers on the New York scene.

She both directed and produced her debut film, the critically acclaimed baseball trilogy, "Play Ball!" ("Fanfare for A Common Man," "Random Acts of Intimacy," "Caught in Time") screened at the Berlin Film Festival, Cannes Director Fortnight, and more than 40 U.S. film festivals including those in New York, Newport, Seattle, and Savannah.

Bess received "Best Film" at seven U.S. festivals and was awarded first prize for Best Short Film by a Woman Director at the LA Women in Film Competition.

She and Patrick are both members of the Ensemble Studio Theatre, where they first associated. "The Majestic Players Storm Kansas City" is his third collaboration with Bess.

Link is a member of the OBIE award-winning Youngblood Playwrights Group. Based at the Ensemble Studio Theater, the group helped to develop "The Majestic Players Storm Kansas City."

Link's most recent work, "Headstrong," which highlights the concussion crisis in the National Football League, played an extended off-Broadway run at the Ensemble Studio Theater in Spring 2012. He has received five commissions through the EST/Sloan project; his other work has been produced and developed by EST/Youngblood, Ars Nova, Three Graces Theatre Co., Southampton Writers Conference, and published by Original Works and soon Smith and Kraus.