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NKU play focuses on loss, religion

Guest directs 'The Diviners'

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

The latest stage offering from NKU's Department of Theatre and Dance is "The Diviners" by James Leonard, Jr.

It's the story about a small town in Indiana enduring a Depression-era drought. The play runs through Sunday

"I was drawn to this play because of its heavy religious message, this is not a play to put on and watch with your preacher and expect to sit comfortably throughout," said senior Daniel Nation, who plays Basil Bennett, the play's narrator.

ADVERTISEMENT "The Diviners" won the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Award when it was written in 1980.

"This play touches on the human emotions that we experience today - loss, struggle, love, friendship, hope," said guest director Lisa Bodollo.

"I would say it says a lot about the world today and where we have come from," Nation said.

This is the third play presented this school year and the first to be directed by a guest.

Bodollo is a full-time director and instructor at Mother of Mercy High School performing arts department in Cincinnati. At Mercy, she directs five shows a year and during the summer serves as the artistic director for TheatreWorks, a summer drama camp for children.

"Lisa has done a fantastic job in directing us. It's really great to work with such a great guest director that is so full of heart and has such an eye for the theater," Nation said.

The 11 cast members of "The Diviners" were chosen from NKU performance majors during a two-day audition process. Upcoming shows at NKU include "A Chorus Line" in February followed by "Crimes of the Heart" and "The Elephant Man" in the spring.

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The performance runs until Sunday. Tuesday-Saturday performances 8 p.m.; Sunday performance 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 adult, \$9 NKU faculty and staff, \$8 seniors 60 and older and \$6 students. They may be purchased by calling the box office at (859) 572-5464. Box office hours are noon-4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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