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THE ELEPHANT MAN: ABNORMAL FREAKS VS. NORMAL HUMANS

(Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah) The SUU department of Theatre Arts and Dance will perform *The Elephant Man*, directed by T. Anthony Marotta. Based on a true story of Joseph "John" Merrick, *The Elephant Man* portrays the horror of social torture. *The Elephant Man* will run October 30-November 1, 2008 and November 6-8, 2008 in the SUU Auditorium Theatre. Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for General Admission, \$8 for SUU Faculty and Staff, \$5 for students/children and SUU Students attend free with a valid Student ID.

The bearded lady, conjoined twins, pinheads and other circus "freaks" capture the audience in a journey of normality versus abnormality. Matt Marberry, plays John Merrick who has a severe case of the incurable disease, elephantiasis. Merrick's story reveals an "abnormal" person, previously denied of all human conditions, who finally discovers feelings of normalcy. Because of the hatred directed toward Merrick throughout his entire life, he longs for something more and learns to love Mrs. Kendal (played by Stephanie Player). Frederick Treves, played by Steven Grawrock, tries to rescue Merrick from social hatred through scientific means.

Appearance versus reality is apparent throughout the play. John Merrick is deformed, yet displays his inner beauty. Frederick Treves is a successful scientist but doubts his process of curing John Merrick. Mrs. Kendal is a famous actress with a fragile soul.

More information about the arts at SUU is available at 435-865-8800 or on our website at www.suu.edu/arts

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ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts is comprised of the departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, and a graduate program in Arts Administration. The College's affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, American Folk Ballet, Utah Shakespearean Festival, the performance group Acclamation, and the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. Over 550 students are majoring in 16 different degree areas in the arts. Both liberal arts B.A. and B.S. degrees are offered, as well four professional degrees: Bachelor of Music (B.M.); Bachelor of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) in Studio Art, Graphic Design, and Arts Education; and the B.F.A. in Theatre. The College's Art and Design, Music, and Dance programs are nationally accredited. More than 60 full and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring students in their pursuit of a degree in the arts. The College regularly enrolls 1100 students each semester in over 195 classes on the SUU campus. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, contact the Office of the Dean 435-865-8561 or by e-mail at cpvamktg@suu.edu.