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Bearing The Unbearable

Yankton's One-Act Play Entry Takes A Whimsical Look At A Difficult Subject

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The heavy topic of death is being given a lighter touch thanks to Yankton High School's upcoming one-act play. The school's theater department has spent nearly a month and a half preparing its entry for state one-acts and is nearly ready to present Aurand Harris' *The Arkansas Bear*.

In the story, a young girl becomes upset about the prospect of losing her grandfather. As a result, she runs away from home and runs into a dancing bear, who also happens to be dying. In the process, both learn lessons in dealing with the prospect of death.

Director Keith Goeden said the play, despite its grim setting, actually instills a sense of hope in the audience.

"I think ultimately it actually has hope — nobody wants to die but at the same time nobody's discovered a secret to cheat it," Goeden said. "It's just really being able to come to grips with it, especially seen through the eyes of a little kid."

Goeden said the cast and crew of 38 students has been hard at work on the project.

"We usually start in December and practice probably three or four times over the break," he said. "Once January rolls around, we're usually here six days per week, two or three hours at a time, and it gets pretty intense."

He added that despite the stringent timing requirements of competitive one-acts, set-up for the play has gone smoothly.

"This one's been pretty easy as far as directing it in general and timing, we're running pretty good," he said. "We've been running around 38 minutes. I figure we're really good at putting up and taking down — if I can give myself five minutes for both set up and take down, I'm pretty confident."



KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Yankton High School is presenting "*The Arkansas Bear*," a play that looks at issues of death, at the South Dakota State One-Act Play Festival in Brandon next week. ABOVE: The central characters in the play are, from left, Cade Newland (Bear), Suzy Kinsley (Tish), Maddie Logue (Mime) and Logan Haak (Lil' Bear). RIGHT: Wishing can make it so, and Star (Gabe Swenson) materializes to make wishes come true in "*The Arkansas Bear*." To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net.

Senior Susanna Kinsley, who plays Tish, said she's happy with how the play has come together.

"Everything's kind of come together," Kinsley said. "Now we're just running it a lot and trying to make it just right so it can do a good job."

Sophomore Logan Haak, who plays Lil' Bear, said the ease of preparation has really helped the cast further develop their roles.

"I feel we're really ahead of schedule for where we're at," Haak said. "Talking with a lot of the people that have been

experienced in doing this, they make it sound like we've been working really hard. We've put in a really hard effort and we've gotten it done right away so we have a bunch of time to play with different ways we can mess with the roles."

Goeden said the inspiration for using "*The Arkansas Bear*" stemmed from a desire to produce a play with a more open direction.

"I've been kind of stuck in a rut in



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{FEB 1 - 8}

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1	
2:00 PM	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY - HOME
4:00 PM	MEN'S BASKETBALL - CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY - HOME
TBA	INDOOR TRACK - CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY - SEWARD, NE
TBA	INDOOR TRACK - BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY MULTI MEET - STORM LAKE, IA
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2	
HOMECOMING WEEK STARTS	
4:00 PM	HOMECOMING MASS - PEACE CHAPEL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3	
8 AM - 4:30 PM	BEDE ART GALLERY: JOHN BANASIAK AND STUDENTS OF USD "AN EXPLORATION OF THE 19 TH CENTURY KALLITYPE PROCESS OF SIR JOHN HERSCHEL"
10:00 AM	COMMUNITY HOUR
8:00 PM	RITUAL AND RELIGION: NATURE, FOUNDATION, AND MANIPULATION OF RITUAL - THE RAVEN
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4	
8 AM - 4:30 PM	BEDE ART GALLERY: JOHN BANASIAK AND STUDENTS OF USD "AN EXPLORATION OF THE 19 TH CENTURY KALLITYPE PROCESS OF SIR JOHN HERSCHEL"
9:30 PM	ROSARY - PEACE CHAPEL
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5	
8 AM - 4:30 PM	BEDE ART GALLERY: JOHN BANASIAK AND STUDENTS OF USD "AN EXPLORATION OF THE 19 TH CENTURY KALLITYPE PROCESS OF SIR JOHN HERSCHEL"
10:00 AM	COMMUNITY HOUR AND MASS IN THE PEACE CHAPEL
11:00 AM	BLOOD DRIVE - LADDIE E. CIMPL ARENA LOBBY
6:00 PM	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - MORNINGSIDE COLLEGE - AWAY
8:00 PM	MEN'S BASKETBALL - MORNINGSIDE COLLEGE - AWAY
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6	
8 AM - 4:30 PM	BEDE ART GALLERY: JOHN BANASIAK AND STUDENTS OF USD "AN EXPLORATION OF THE 19 TH CENTURY KALLITYPE PROCESS OF SIR JOHN HERSCHEL"
TBA	ARCHERY - VEGAS SHOOT - LAS VEGAS, NV
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7	
8 AM - 4:30 PM	BEDE ART GALLERY: JOHN BANASIAK AND STUDENTS OF USD "AN EXPLORATION OF THE 19 TH CENTURY KALLITYPE PROCESS OF SIR JOHN HERSCHEL"
10:00 AM	COMMUNITY HOUR
7:30 PM	MOUNT MARTY GRAS HOMECOMING CORONATION AND WINTER SHOWCASE - MARIAN AUDITORIUM
TBA	ARCHERY - VEGAS SHOOT - LAS VEGAS, NV
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8	
10:00 AM	SOFTBALL - BRIAR CLIFF UNIVERSITY SCRIMMAGE - SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE
11:00 AM	JV WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - ALUMNI GAME - HOME
11:00 AM	JV MEN'S BASKETBALL - ALUMNI GAME - HOME
2:00 PM	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - HASTING COLLEGE - HOME - HOMECOMING JAM THE STANDS
2:00 PM	SOFTBALL - NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE SCRIMMAGE - SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE
4:00 PM	MEN'S BASKETBALL - HASTINGS COLLEGE - HOME - HOMECOMING JAM THE STANDS
TBA	INDOOR TRACK - BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY - STORM LAKE, IA
TBA	ARCHERY - VEGAS SHOOT - LAS VEGAS, NV

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