

SECTION B

Press & Dakotan Friday, November 14, 2014

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A 'Happy' Venture

Mount Marty's Jim Reese Releases A Sweet Collection Of Poetry

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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The cover of Jim Reese's new book of poetry leaves the reader hungry.

That's because the cover of "Really Happy" features a peanut butter cup. The image cleverly plays on Reese sharing the same name as the company responsible for the addictive candy.

"I think the reader will like the cover," Reese said. "The cover art is by the artist Bret Gottschall - he's out of (Kansas City). Once I saw that painting Gottschall did, I had to have it on my

But don't think the Mount Marty College professor's third book is simply mind candy. Like the peanut butter cup, you can't settle for what you first see. Take a bite, and there's much more at the

His poems are humorous as well as gritty. The settings range from late-night diners to bowling alleys to prisons. The prison setting draws on his work as the National Endowment for the Arts' writer-in-residence at the Yankton Federal Prison Camp for the past seven years.

In "Really Happy," Reese talks of his relationship with his parents and his children. He shares the experience of working with his daughter's softball team and describes his children's fascination with fireflies on a

But he also comes to grips with death. He talks about driving down Broadway Avenue in Yankton and witnessing a man dancing to his own music amidst a winter blizzard. And he describes standing in line at a pharmacy, where nearby teenage boys nervously try to

"Really Happy' is about the power of voice. It catalogs the city of Yankton from the Meridian Bridge north-

bound to wherever you're headed," he said.

Reese takes the "free spirits" he encounters and drops them in Yankton "The thing is, there's a Broadway (Avenue) in most towns and cities, and there's always someone belting out music to oncoming traffic,"

he said. "I love those people. They don't need a choir to sing with."

FINDING AN AUDIENCE

"Really Happy" was recently published by New York Quarterly Books, a testament to Reese's ability to cross cultural and geographical lines with his work. "I was in New York performing — presenting a

reading, whatever you want to call it — and the editor from the New York Quarterly was in the crowd. I talked with him afterwards and he encouraged me to submit to their magazine," Reese said. "A few years later, they started publishing books (NYQ Books). I was in the right place at the right time.'

Whether rural or urban, readers share many of the same values, Reese said.

'Common sense val-

ues such as physical labor, honesty in human relations, an emphasis on the primacy of family and community, and intimate physical, emotional and spiritual connections to the land are more important now than ever," he said.

"Really Happy" offers short prose as well as poetry, Reese said. At first, he wanted the collection to be all fun — nothing about death, his work at the prison or other serious subjects.

But he realized his work usually features a mix of comedy and tragedy.

Still, he wanted to offer a whimsical look at life. "I hope as I've gotten older, I'm a bit funnier. I mean. I don't fall out of bed and think today I must be more serious. So I hope the humor is there," he said. "In fact, my wife told me the first poem in my book was funny — so there you go. She's my best critic. And I know she made it through the first page. That's

Reese's "Really Happy" tour opens Jan. 16 at Zandbroz Variety in Sioux Falls. He performs Feb. 13 at the





COURTESY PHOTO

{Nov. 15 - Nov. 22}

Poet Jim Reese, who is also a professor at Yankton's Mount Marty College, has just a released a new book of poetry, "Really Happy," published by NYQ Books. He said the book "catalogs the city of Yankton from the Meridian Bridge northbound to wherever vou're headed.

This week at Mount Marty College

JOIN US FOR ANY AND ALL OF OUR EVENTS THIS FALL SEMESTER! LEARN MORE AT WWW.MTMC.EDU.

Monday - Friday | 8:00 am - 4:30 pm | Bede Art Gallery | Sirlene Bosn, "South Dakota Genre" | Nov. 3 - Nov. 22 MONDAY - FRIDAY | 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM | BOX OFFICE OPEN FOR MMC FALL THEATRE PRODUCTION "BOEING BOEING" | CALL 605-668-1234 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2014 | 12:00 PM | COMPLIMENTARY VESPERS TICKETS GO "ON SALE" | MMC PAGES BOOKSTORE AND SHM GIFT SHOP

10:00 AM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Family Weekend

FAMILY WEEKEND AVERA SCIENCE & NURSING COMPLEX TOURS IV Men's Basketball - Independent - Cimpl Arena 11:00 AM 4:00 PM Men's Basketball - Dakota State University - Cimpl Arena 7:30 PM MMC THEATRE PRESENTS "BOEING BOEING" - MARIAN AUDITORIUM 7:00 PM WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS - SIOUX FALLS, SD VOLLEYBALL - GPAC TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Family Weekend

COMMUNITY HOUR

10:00 AM

9:30 PM

12:00 PM

6:00 PM

8:00 PM

1105 W. 8th St. | Yankton, SD | 1-855-MtMarty (686-2789) | mtmc.edu

MMC THEATRE PRESENTS "BOEING BOEING" - MARIAN AUDITORIUM

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Women's Basketball - Oglala Lakota College - Kyle, SD Men's Basketball - Oglala Lakota College - Kyle, SD Rosary - Peace Chapel

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

BLOOD DRIVE - CIMPL ARENA LOBBY 10:00 AM COMMUNITY HOUR AND MASS - GREGORY HALL

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

NOON FORUM "A TOPICAL VACATION" WITH DR. TERRY NELSON -RONCALLI SOUTH DINING ROOM

Women's JV Basketball - Minnesota West CC - Worthington, MN MEN'S JV BASKETBALL - MINNESOTA WEST CC - WORTHINGTON, MN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

COMMUNITY HOUR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Women's Basketball - Midland University - Fremont, NE 12:00 PM Men's Basketball - Midland University - Fremont, SD 2:00 PM CROSS COUNTRY - NAIA NATIONALS - LAWRENCE, KA TBA ALL-STATE BAND SIGHT-READING CLINIC - GREGORY HALL TBA

Tickets Now Available!

BOEING BOEING

MMC Fall Theatre Production Thursday - Saturday | November, 13 - 15 | 7:30 PM Sunday | November 16 | 2:30 PM Box Office Open 12:00 - 5:00 pm | #668-1234 | Adults \$8 | Students \$4

Vespers: "Et al" December 7, 2014 | 4:00 & 7:00 pm Tickets for the 7:00 show are available now at MMC Pages Bookstore & Sacred Heart Monastery Gift Shop

For More Information: events@mtmc.edu

Our Mission

MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE, AN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY IN THE CATHOLIC, BENEDICTINE, LIBERAL ARTS TRADITION, PREPARES STUDENTS FOR A CONTEMPORARY WORLD OF WORK, SERVICE TO THE HUMAN COMMUNITY, AND PERSONAL GROWTH.



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