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# Laughs Or Tears?

YCTC Presents 'Hydrangea Albright: Comedy Or Tragedy?' At MMC's Marian Auditorium



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
ABOVE: Hydrangea (Ireland Biltoft) shows frustration with her zany parents in a scene from Hydrangea Albright: Comedy or Tragedy?  
BELOW: Harley IV (Sky Nockels) gets down on the blues after losing his job and deciding on a new career path as a musician.



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Rich Wright is making his directorial debut with the Yankton Children's Theatre Company next week, and his first play is a comedy — or a tragedy, depending on your point of view.

The play is, in fact, a comedy called "Hydrangea Albright: Comedy or Tragedy?" The show runs from Sept. 19-22 at Mount Marty College's Marian Auditorium. Showtimes are 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and free for children under 3.

Wright said he's excited about his first attempt at directing.

"This is the first play I've ever directed," Wright said. "I've been in a number of performances over the last 10 years. I was really happy when they asked me to do this one."

Wright has been involved with the Lewis and Clark Theatre Company for 10 years and acted in a show with the YCTC last year. He has also been involved with productions at Mount Marty College in the past.

YCTC Executive Director Allison Spark said the group is intended to help kids as well as get them interested in theater.

"Basically we're a company that tries to get kids into the arts," Spark said. "We want to get them up on stage to help them grow and mature into adults who can get in front of people."

Productions are usually open to kids 4-18 years old.

Wright said he was happy about the YCTC's decision to go with a comedy, but that it can be a challenging genre to direct.

"When the (YCTC) asked me to direct this play, I was really glad it was a comedy because I think comedy is fun," he said. "But it's challenging to make people laugh. "There's so much timing involved in comedy, especially physical comedy, so it takes a lot of work to get that down."

The play centers around two dueling playwrights, played by Jennica Young (Comedic Playwright) and Blake Wieseler (Tragic Playwright), trying to write the same story about the cursed Hydrangea Albright, played by Ireland Biltoft, and a cast of oddball characters surrounding her. The playwrights attempt to write two different plays for her: One written as a tragedy and one written as a comedy and



KELLY HERTZ/P&D  
Comedic Playwright (Jennica Young, left) and Tragic Playwright (Blake Wieseler) tell the story, while Hydrangea Albright (Ireland Biltoft) searches for a clue to break her family's curse, in a scene from the Yankton Children's Theatre Company production of "Hydrangea Albright: Comedy or Tragedy?" The play will be presented at Mount Marty College's Marian Auditorium Sept. 19-22. To see or purchase images of this event, visit [spotted.yankton.net](http://spotted.yankton.net).

from there, hilarity ensues.

Wright said he's enjoyed working with the cast of the show.

"These young performers are doing great," he said. "They're very enthusiastic. They all really want to learn about theater and I've got a bunch of little hams who really want to perform."

Twenty-three children ranging from 6 to 14 years old have been cast in the play and Wright said he was able to find roles for all of them.

Wright said shows like this give children many great opportunities.

"Theater is a life-long activity," he said. "The skills that you learn as far as self-confidence, speaking, projecting yourself, making a commitment to coming to practice every day, learning your lines and learning your entrances and exits, it's a big commitment. You learn a lot about responsibility and how to be committed to something and you learn a

lot of self-confidence."

The next YCTC production will be "Bah, Humbug! Scrooge's Christmas Carol" in December. Spark said auditions for the show will be in October and more information will be coming out shortly. To learn more about the Yankton Children's Theatre Company, visit [www.yanktonchildrenstheatre.org/](http://www.yanktonchildrenstheatre.org/).

**CAST LIST** — Jennica Young, Blake Wieseler, Ireland Biltoft, Sky Nockels, Amelia Morkve, Alyssa Ogstad, Mary Schmidt, Audrey Paulson, Elizabeth Schmidt, Emily Wieseler, Emma Hamberger, Grace Biltoft, Jaden Pearson, Jordan Kuipers, Joselyn Pearson, Joseph Schmidt, Josie Morkve, Lauren Bruining, Michael Brown, Tess Zoss, Tina Zoss, Tori Cass and ZoieLee Marcotte.

You can follow Rob Nielsen on Twitter at [twitter.com/RobNielsenPandD/](https://twitter.com/RobNielsenPandD/). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/)

{SEPT. 14 - 21}

## This Week at MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE

JOIN US FOR ANY AND ALL OF OUR EVENTS THIS WEEK! LEARN MORE AT [WWW.MTMC.EDU](http://WWW.MTMC.EDU).

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

10:00 AM - 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MMC HOME RUN DERBY/ALUMNI BASEBALL GAME - RIVERSIDE PARK  
10:30 AM - CROSS COUNTRY - DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY - AWAY  
12:30 PM - VOLLEYBALL - FRIENDS UNIVERSITY - AWAY  
2:30 PM - VOLLEYBALL - DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY - AWAY  
TBA - ALL- STATE CHOIR WORKSHOP  
BISTRO (BEDE HALL 127)/ MARIAN AUDITORIUM  
TBA - WOMEN'S GOLF - BRIAR CLIFF - AWAY

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

4:00 PM - MASS - PEACE CHAPEL

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

8 AM - 4:30 PM - BEDE ART GALLERY EXHIBIT: PAUL PETERSON  
10:00 AM - COMMUNITY HOUR  
3:00 PM - WOMEN'S SOCCER - JAMESTOWN COLLEGE HOME - NFAA COMPLEX  
7:00 PM - MOUNT MARTY CHORAL UNION REHEARSAL BISTRO (BEDE HALL 127)  
TBA - MEN'S GOLF - MIDLAND INVITE - FREMONT, NE

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

8 AM - 4:30 PM - BEDE ART GALLERY EXHIBIT: PAUL PETERSON  
5:00 PM - MEN'S SOCCER - JAMESTOWN COLLEGE - HOME - NFAA COMPLEX  
5:30 PM - YANKTON CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSAL BISTRO (BEDE HALL 127)  
6:00 PM - JV VOLLEYBALL - NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE - AWAY  
7:30 PM - VOLLEYBALL - NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE - AWAY  
9:30 PM - ROSARY - PEACE CHAPEL

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

8 AM - 4:30 PM - BEDE ART GALLERY EXHIBIT: PAUL PETERSON  
10:00 AM - COMMUNITY HOUR AND MASS - WELCOME CENTER

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

BISHOP MARTIN MARTY DAY  
8 AM - 4:30 PM - BEDE ART GALLERY EXHIBIT: PAUL PETERSON  
12:00 PM - NOON FORUM: PATRICIA MILLER "THE U.S. AND S.D. CONSTITUTIONS" - RONCALLI, SOUTH DINING ROOM  
12:00 PM - BISHOP MARTIN MARTY DAY MEAL - RONCALLI, MAIN DINING ROOM  
12:20 PM - MOUNT MARTY MILE COMMUNITY WALK - RAVEN  
TBA - MEN'S GOLF - GPAC #1 - AWAY

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

8 AM - 4:30 PM - BEDE ART GALLERY EXHIBIT: PAUL PETERSON  
10:00 AM - COMMUNITY HOUR  
12:00 PM - TOWN HALL MEETING: CHUCK IVERSON-ATHLETICS RONCALLI, SOUTH DINING ROOM  
1:00 PM - WOMEN'S SOCCER - AWAY  
6:00 PM - JV VOLLEYBALL - GRACE UNIVERSITY HOME - CIMPL ARENA  
7:30 PM - VOLLEYBALL - GRACE UNIVERSITY HOME - CIMPL ARENA

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

10:00 AM - HOSMER SEMINAR - SLC 107  
11:30 AM - MMC VOLLEYBALL ALUMNI REUNION - CIMPL ARENA  
12:00 PM - JV VOLLEYBALL - CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY HOME - CIMPL ARENA  
1:30 PM - VOLLEYBALL - CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY HOME - CIMPL ARENA  
1:00 PM - SOFTBALL - COLLEGE OF SAINT MARY - HOME  
1:00 PM - WOMEN'S SOCCER - CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY - AWAY  
3:00 PM - MEN'S SOCCER - CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY - AWAY

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