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FAYETTEVILLE Seasonal Success

TheatreSquared unveils slate of quirky, thoughtful plays

By [Kevin Kinder](#)
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FAYETTEVILLE — Considering TheatreSquared's recent growth in audience size and show runs, the Fayetteville-based theater company had a little bit of a problem as its leaders were assembling the shows for the sixth season.

Last year, T2 debuted an original production, "Sundown Town," and had to extend the run of another show, "Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some)," thanks to audience demand.

This is the best kind of problem to have, however.

"It was a particularly hardseason to follow," says Martin Miller, the company's managing director.

TheatreSquared has spent several months coming up with the roster for the new season, which will begin in September and continue into May of 2012.

Compared to last year, the company has added about 20 performances to the season.

Leading off the new season is the show "Boeing-Boeing," which Miller describes "a really fun farce that also has a lot of heart." The show, which will be staged in Fayetteville beginning Sept. 1, is based on a French comedy that was revived for a run on Broadway in 2008. In this play, Bernard juggles three separate fiancées, all of whom are flight attendants. When the plane manufacturer Boeing - hence the play's title - makes a faster jet, it interrupts Bernard's intricate schedule for seeing each of the three without any of them knowing of the others.

FYI

THEATRESQUARED'S SIXTH SEASON

Sept. 1-25 - "Boeing, Boeing"

Dec. 8 through Jan. 1 - Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life"

Feb. 9 through March 4 - "Tigers Be Still"

April 12 through May 6 - "The Fall of the House"

INFO - Season subscriptions, which are \$74, go on sale today through the Walton Arts Center by calling 443-5600 or at www.waltonartscenter.org.

Single tickets are expected to go on sale in June.

The next story is a familiar one but not as a play.

TheatreSquared, which the help of a creative team, will launch a new stage adaptation of the Frank Capra Christmastime movie "It's a Wonderful Life," which featured Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey. The show will run during the holiday season, which production dates between Dec. 8 and Jan. 1.

The first show in 2012 will be "Tigers Be Still," a comedy by Kim Rosenstock. This show only recently debuted in New York City, and it will be making its Arkansas debut when T2 stages it from Feb. 9 through March 4.

It focuses on a family, forced to live together in the suburbs under strange circumstances.

Among the characters is Grace, who has moved back home after her fiancé cheated on her, living a post-engagement life that consists mostly of drinking and watching the movie "Top Gun."

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The other characters have similarly crippling issues, but the play doesn't wallow in those situations.

"It's a really funny, extremely quirky show," Miller says.

Rounding out the season will be a production of the "The Fall of the House," which will be staged from April 12 through May 6. The show was written by Robert Ford, TheatreSquared artistic director and an award-winning playwright. Local audiences - or those familiar with T2's previous productions - may have watched a production of his World War II play "My Father's War."

"The Fall of the House," which debuted last year at the prestigious Alabama Shakespeare Festival, was one of three plays recently nominated for an Edgar Award, presented by the Mystery Writers of America.

This play spans two centuries in time and visits Edgar Allan Poe's deathbed in the process.

It is written for a large cast, and 12 characters will be needed for the show.

TheatreSquared will also produce the Arkansas New Play Fest in 2012. Like the 2011 version, the event will take place both in Northwest Arkansas and at the Arkansas Repertory Theatre in Little Rock.

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