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ONE-MAN SHOW T2 Acting With An Audience

OVERDUE BOOK AT MYSTERIOUS HEART OF 'UNDERNEATH THE L

By [Kevin Kinder](#)

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FAYETTEVILLE — For his role in “Underneath the Lintel,” Craig MacDonald doesn’t get an ac pick him up if he falls. He doesn’t get someone else to cue him into his lines if he forgets. And he the chance to feed off anyone else’s emotions.

Except for the audience, that is.

“You, as the audience, are the acting partner,” says Shana Gold, who is directing MacDonald in TheatreSquared’s production of the one-man show “Underneath the Lintel,” which comes to the s various dates today through March 14. “That’s scary and exciting and fun.”

And, Gold says, an extremely brave act by MacDonald, a theater professional who teaches his cra University in New York.

During the show’s three-week run at Nadine Baum Studios, MacDonald is commuting between N Fayetteville. A grant is allowing his school to pay for a substitute teacher during his absences, he

Gold also comes from New York.

In the weeks leading up to tonight’s debut, she and MacDonald have been chatting via Skype - an for video and voice communication - to prep the actor for his solo role.

“A person in a one-person show needs more support, because I’m all he’s got,” Gold says.

Learning lines was a chore, MacDonald acknowledged when he, like Gold, was in town for a for Fayetteville Public Library to discuss the upcoming production.

The show focuses on a man - known simply as The Librarian - who undertakes a personal mission the secrets of a book that has been returned to his library 113 years late. The play, written by Gler debuted in 2001 and has become increasingly popular, with performances in many major theater 1

The piece, which fits T2’s general philosophies in terms of the cast size (small) and stage requiren (minimal), was the right show for the company for many reasons, says Bob Ford, the artistic direc

“We’ve never done a show that we don’t fully believe in,” Ford says. “It hits our core audience w with smart and heart.”

Ford, through his connections to the national theater community, hand-picked Gold and MacDonald roles, even though the duo had never worked together. Gold has a long list of directing credits from New York, and in addition to his work at Syracuse University, MacDonald has found a home on stage in his area. Ford first met him when the two were in acting school together.

When looking for a Librarian, “his name was first on the list,” Ford says.

MacDonald, in the lead role, says he also found that the play is much more than just some reading lecture, a problem that can plague one-person shows.

“It took me a second reading to find what I would call the beating heart,” he says.

As such, it’s not what Ford would classify as bawdy comedy, or riproaring theater, though it has elements of both humor and suspense.

“We all really fell for it,” Ford says.

Just like the actor in the lead role, which is why he agreed to take the role in the first place, he says

There is, MacDonald says, “a little spark that says, ‘Yes, this is going to be fun.’”

Even if it is just the actor and the audience.

ON STAGE

‘UNDERNEATH THE LINTEL’

Dates & Showtimes: 7:30 p.m. today-

Saturday, March 4-6 and March 11-13;

2 p.m. Sunday, March 6-7 and March 13-14

Venue: Nadine Baum Studios, 505 W.

Spring St. in Fayetteville

Admission: \$10-\$22 FOR TICKETS, CALL 571-2728 OR VISIT THEATRESQUARED.ORG.

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