



**COLLEGE OF
PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS**
SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

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Die of Laughter at *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*

Written by Ashley H Pollock

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: SUU College of Performing and Visual Arts' Theatre Arts & Dance Department will present Tom Stoppard's comedy *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* on September 29, October 2, 5, 6, 7, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at the Engelstad Shakespeare Theatre. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for alumni with card, and \$5 for youth. SUU faculty, staff, and students can get in free with a valid ID card.

Bailey Smith, graduating Senior from Pullman, Washington, plays one of the title characters, Guildenstern. She said, "This play reflects what Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are constantly asking: 'who are we and what are we doing here?' Though these two are placed in a particularly absurd situation, it is something that individuals in any given circumstances ask themselves. Audiences can connect to Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, who really are two sides of the same coin, by experiencing the pair as they try to figure out what's going on."

Smith went on to say, "Working with our guest director, J.R. Sullivan is a unique opportunity that I have been fortunate enough to take advantage of. He is a professional director currently working in the business. Through his help, I was able to grow as an actor and a professional myself, and glean an in-depth training by creating this show."

Sullivan is known in the area for his incredible directing work at the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Some of his productions include *Hamlet*, *King Lear*, *Amadeus*, *Richard III*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *The Odd Couple*, and *The Glass Menagerie*.

J.R. Sullivan, former Artistic Director (2002-2009) of the Utah Shakespeare Festival and current director of the production, said, "Working with the SUU cast, crew and design team has been a joy for me. This play, one of Tom Stoppard's very best and his first major success as a playwright, is an extraordinary delve into meaning, purpose, and the always comic human condition of seeking reason in the inescapably absurd. It is a tragicomic backstage look at two minor characters in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Tom Stoppard turns Shakespeare's tragedy into an inverse of itself, and thus a comedy about two Everyman types who happen to be *us* as much as they are two nonentities named Rosencrantz and Guildenstern."

Join in the laughter at *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.suu.edu/pva/ta.

About the College of Performing and Visual Arts

The Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts is comprised of nationally accredited programs in Art & Design, Music, and Dance. The College also offers programs in Theatre Arts, graduate programs in Arts Administration and Music, as well as a Center for Shakespeare Studies. The College offers 26 academic programs, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees; professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre degrees; and Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration, Master of Arts in Arts Administration, Master of Music Education and Master of Music in Music Technology graduate degrees. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring over 600 majors in the College. The College presents over 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College's affiliate organizations include the Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA), Utah Shakespeare Festival and SUU's Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, visit www.suu.edu/pva.

For Calendar Editors: Die of Laughter at Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

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- Who:** Southern Utah University, Department of Theatre Arts & Dance
- When:** September 29, October 2, 5, 6, 7, 2017
- Time:** 7:30 p.m.
- Where:** Engelstad Shakespeare Theatre, 200 W College Ave, Cedar City, Utah
- Tickets:** \$10 for adults, \$8 for alumni with card, and \$5 for youth. SUU faculty, staff, and students can get in free with a valid ID card.
- Info:** For more information, please visit www.suu.edu/pva/ta.

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