

For Immediate Release
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UNH Presents World Premiere Family Musical February 18-22

It is not often an entire family can attend a live musical theatre performance for \$40.00. For audiences who attend UNH's world premiere musical, "The Boy Who Stood Still," a family of four actually can. With a youth ticket price of just \$7.50, UNH's upcoming production of "The Boy Who Stood Still" is the best deal in town!

This exciting new work is an old-fashioned coming of age story about Renfield, an adolescent boy who dreams of becoming a philosopher. In a world where the focus is on product, not process, Renfield perplexes friends and family who set out to test the young boy and send him on a fantastical adventure of self discovery.

This production, which includes a multi level set designed by UNH Professor David Ramsey, is filled with colorful costumes and even more colorful characters including a lovable, neurotic side-kick named "Panic." The lively score has a variety of musical styles including large scale ensemble numbers, beautiful ballads even a little bit of jazz. Dance numbers feature the breath taking Cirque-de-Soliel style feats of the UNH Aerial Dancers. The addition of aerialists is not included in the original script, but the UNH Department of Theatre & Dance's robust Dance Company, which includes aerial dance, is uniquely positioned to include that element into the production. Professor Gay Nardone, who heads the aerial program, as well as jazz and tap styles, is the choreographer for the aerial portion of the production, while UNH Theatre & Dance senior Seraphina Caligiure choreographs the numbers on the ground.

Written as collaboration between UNH Professor and Director of Theatre Education Raina Ames, and musical composer Charles Pelletier of Los Angeles CA, "The Boy Who Stood Still" is a labor of love twelve years in the making. Ames and Pelletier were on two different coasts while they worked together on the project. Ames wrote multiple versions of the script and Pelletier crafted music and lyrics that transformed a story into a production. When asked about the difference between creating works for children versus adults, Ames explained, "Children, above any other audience, can most readily identify when a story is not truthful," she adds, "They also require a fast moving plot to maintain their attention." The length of the show hovers at about one hour, which is perfect for audiences with young children. Pelletier reflected, "I've had other musicals produced, but "The Boy Who Stood Still" is the first one that is specifically family oriented and accessible to young children.

Although no stranger to directing musicals and main stage theatre productions at UNH, "Boy" marks the first time Ames directs one of her own productions. "After spending so much time developing characters, you have a very concrete idea of the way they look, sound and move." Explains Ames, "Of course, once you hold an audition, those ideas immediately get tossed aside as you see how an actor brings his or her own style and vision. Theatre is, above all, a collaborative endeavor, and only when your creativity combines with everyone else's can you hope to achieve something greater than yourself."

The world premiere of “The Boy Who Stood Still” is Wednesday, February 18 and runs through Sunday, February 22 in the UNH Johnson Theatre. Matinees and evening performances are as follows: February 18, 19, 20 & 21 at 7:00 p.m., February 21 at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., February 22 at 2:00 p.m. A special school group matinee is offered on February 18 at 10:00 a.m. Call 603.862.2150 for details. Ticket prices range from \$7.50-\$12.50, and are available through the MUB ticket office at 603.862.2290 or at www.unhmub.com/ticket. Tickets are also available one hour prior to curtain in the UNH Johnson Lobby. For more information, or to learn about the rest of our season, call the UNH Department of Theatre & Dance office at 603.862.2919 or visit www.unh.edu/theatre-dance.

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Photo Credit:

Perry Smith, UNH Photo Services

From the left, Justin Morin and Sean Driscoll

SHORT VERSION:

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Written and directed by UNH Professor and Director of Theatre Education, Raina Ames, with music by Los Angeles composer Charles Pelletier, the production features original music, choreography and the Cirque-de-Soliel style feats of the UNH Aerial Dance Troupe.

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