



ELMIRA COLLEGE

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

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Theatre Season Opens with 2000-Year-Old Comedy

Elmira, New York – Frogs, Greek Gods, Bacchantes, monsters and many more make their appearance upon Elmira College's Gibson Theatre stage from October 13th through the 16th as Aristophanes *The Frogs* opens the 2016-2017 Theatre Season.

In the year 406 B.C., both Aeschylus and Euripides (the last of Greece's great playwrights) died. If one is to believe Aristophanes, the theatre was in a sad state. No worthy playwrights had stepped into the void created by these deaths. In *The Frogs*, Dionysus (the God of theatre, fertility, wine, and rebirth) decides to descend to the Underworld to bring one of the lost playwrights back to the world above. Along the way, he and his put-upon slave Xanthus encounter Heracles, Charon, Empusa, and Pluto. Pluto, God of the Underworld, will permit Dionysus to return one playwright. But only one. To decide which author to choose, a poetry competition is held. Ultimately Dionysus selects a playwright to return to rescue Greek drama.

A cast of two dozen is featured in *The Frogs*. Comedy, spectacle, music and dance mix with dramatic criticism in this classic of Greek New Comedy. Performances are scheduled Thursday, October 13 - Saturday, October 15 at 8:00 p.m. with a matinee at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 16. All seats are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis. No reservations will be accepted. For additional information, contact the Elmira College Theatre Department at 607-735-1981.

About Elmira College

Elmira College is a private, coeducational, Phi Beta Kappa college founded in 1855, located in Elmira, New York. The College has an undergraduate enrollment of approximately 1,200 full-time, mostly-residential students, and is the guardian of Quarry Farms where Mark Twain summered for

decades and where he wrote many of his most iconic novels and is today a research center for visiting Twain scholars. The College has been ranked as a Best College in the Northeast by the Princeton Review and a Top Tier National Liberal Arts College by U.S. News & World Report, which also ranked Elmira College as a leading college, nationally, for student internships. The Philadelphia Inquirer cited the Elmira College campus as ‘picture postcard perfect.’

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Photo attached: Elements.jpg

Caption: The 2016-2017 Theatre Season gets underway on Thursday, October 13, with *The Frogs*, a 2000-year-old comedy featuring music and dance.