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### 'White Devil' features lots of love -- and death

Montgomery Advertiser - Montgomery, Ala.

Subjects: Theater; Public officials

Author: Robyn Bradley Litchfield

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#### Document Text

Sexual treachery, revenge, betrayals and bloody vendettas.

At first glance, the characters of John Webster's "The White Devil" seem monstrous, director Drew Fracher said. But then one realizes that although it is set in 17th-century Italy, this tale sounds familiar.

The story follows a handsome duke and his love, Vittoria, as they try to free themselves from their spouses and pursue their forbidden love.

"It's based on a real story -- it did happen, and stuff like this still does happen today," said Fracher, who is preparing the Alabama Shakespeare Festival's Graduate Company for the production. It previews at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, opens at 8 p.m. Friday and runs through Aug. 4.

The Graduate Company comprises two classes of students from the ASF/University of Alabama Master of Fine Arts/Professional Training Program. Each eight-member class spends an intensive two years studying theater both in the classroom as well as on stage.

The Class of 2001 will graduate following this production, which Fracher called a challenging piece for any actor.

MFA actor Chris Enweiler said he has enjoyed this challenge. He portrays Flamineo, whose sister, Vittoria, is Webster's "white devil."

Until now, Enweiler has portrayed a number of young boys and women. It is nice to play his own age and sex for "The White Devil," he said.

"This is the first play with nitty drama," he said. "It is nice to bite into something a bit more substantial dramatically."

There also is plenty of action. Enweiler's character is stabbed to death by his sister and another character. And Duke Brachiano, played by MFA actor Scot J. Mann, is strangled with a rope.

"When you look at the script, it doesn't look like a lot of fighting," Mann said. "But there is a lot involved in trying to work out the action."

This play is new to both Mann and Enweiler as well as their director. Fracher said this complex play is his first venture into Jacobean tragedy, which came during the later years of Shakespeare's career.

"This play has two main themes," he said. "The first deals with how we all love to see people of status fall, and it's been that way from day one -- we always love to get the dirt on those high public officials. The second overriding theme is that if you're gonna play, you're gonna pay, and the wheel of Karma will roll over you."

WANT TO GO?

What: "The White Devil," presented by the Graduate Company

When: Previews at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday,

opens at 8 p.m. Friday, runs at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 and 7:30 p.m. July 29, 7:30 p.m. Aug. 1 and 2, 2 and 8 p.m. Aug. 3-4

Where: Alabama Shakespeare Festival

Cost: Tickets are \$12-15

Catch a glimpse: Watch MFA actors during the Society of

American Fight Directors' adjudication; it begins at 9:30

a.m. Tuesday in ASF's Rehearsal Hall B; it is free

Information: Call 271-5353

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#### Abstract (Document Summary)

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