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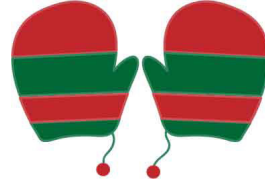
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OPINION



Identity development through student news outlets  
See page 4

OPINION



Learn how to survive winter

See page 4

## Pioneers present Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'

UW-Platteville's contemporary rendition of Elizabethan play takes stage by storm

**Matthew Anderson**

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The University of Wisconsin-Platteville's Department of Performing and Visual Arts-Theatre preformed their rendition of "Hamlet" in the Center for the Arts Theatre. The performances began on Dec. 5 and ran through Dec. 9.

Students, faculty and other members of the community enjoyed Shakespeare's masterpiece portrayed by UW-Platteville's Pioneer Players. The cast included Logan Eigenberger as Hamlet, Aaron Pliska as Horatio, Ian Duff as Claudius, Meghan Weber as Gertrude, Kiley Schulz as Ophelia, Jason Hackbarth as Laertes, Corbin Schroeder as Polonius, Brenna Kautz as Rosencrantz, Andrew Arevalo as Guildenstern and Dillon Nemitz as the Ghost. The remaining roles were filled by an ensemble including Dayna Neidich, Madison Harbour, Morgaine Schroeder, Audi Griffith, Alex Behne and Evelyn Marx.

"Like every show, it was a collaborative project. My development of Gertrude went right along with Ian and Logan's development of their characters. I loved being able to see how Gertrude developed at the same time as everything else around us," senior English education major Meghan Weber said.

Originally performed in 1599, "Hamlet" follows the story of Prince Hamlet as he attends to his father's funeral and family quarrels throughout his journey to regain his rightful seat on Denmark's throne. Following the ghost of his father, Hamlet is tasked with avenging his father's murder.

The theatre department modernized Shakespeare's play by having it set in the present day and designed androgynous costumes. The production also included scenic design by student Nicholas Kelley, technical direction by student Sam Klaas and stage management by student Abigail Wagner. Jeffrey Strange, associate professor and resident designer at UW-Platteville, was the lighting designer. Sarah Strange, instructor and resident designer at UW-Platteville, was the costume designer.

"When we start rehearsals, there's always the remains of the previous show

painted on the floor or laying backstage, but as everything gets built, painted and costumed, the characters exponentially take shape," Weber said.

The Department of Performing and Visual Arts-Theatre puts on several performances each semester. Next semester the department will hold a "Fool for Love" by Sam Shepard, "Sweeney Todd" by Hugh Wheeler and a One-Act Festival performed by UW-Platteville student directors, designers and actors to showcase their talents in the theatre.

For more information and tickets for upcoming events, contact the University Box Office located in room 510 of Ullsvik Hall.



UW-Platteville Communications photo

Fine arts and history major Logan Eigenberger portraying Hamlet's tragic death.

## Pioneers rock around the stage at Holiday Gala

Music department hosts a festive concert to ring in the holiday season

**Morgan Hays**

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The music department rang in the holiday season with their annual Holiday Gala. The gala featured the symphony orchestra, women's choir, the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Clarinet Choir, the Pioneer Saxophone Choir, low brass ensemble, jazz ensemble, Platteville Chorale and the Pioneer Steel Band. The performances brought together an evening full of holiday music.



Jacob Thomas photo

The symphony orchestra performs during the Holiday Gala.

"My favorite part of the Holiday Gala was probably the band, the symphony band. That was really fun to listen to, and they were all like really in the spirit," junior psychology major Briley Fenner said.

Megan Behrens, senior music education major, explained that her favorite piece to play was "Sleigh Ride" because she enjoyed the audience's happiness as it was the fan favorite.

A few of the many performers who participated were Susan Savage-Day and Madalyn Mackey with "I Wonder as I Wander", Daniel Rowland and Lannette Calhoun with "Walking in the Air" from The Snowman and Coro D'Angeli and Rob Shepherd with "Jingle Bells (Sort Of)", who was conducted by Bob Demaree.

"My favorite song that was done at the holiday gala was 'Jingle Bells (Sort of)', which was sung by the women choir," Fenner said.

Many of the songs featured were classic Christmas and holiday songs such as "O Come, All Ye Faithful", "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas", "Go Tell it on the Mountain" and "Jingle Bell Rock."

"I believe people enjoy the Holiday Gala so much because it's the holidays, and everyone in the music department is coming together to create an awesome performance," sophomore music education major Alexa Ellis said.

Brittany Lasko, senior music education major, explained that the students who participated in the Holiday Gala had started practicing and preparing for the concert back in mid-November, long before the beginning of the holiday season.