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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD*, USI THEATRE'S FINAL PRODUCTION OF THE SEASON WILL OPEN IN APRIL**

(Evansville, Indiana) Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, the USI Theatre's final production of the 2001 spring semester, will open at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18 in the University of Southern Indiana Theatre, 3001 Igleheart Ave.

Rick Hobbs, guest director for the USI Theatre said of this play, "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are two souls in a disoriented state. They are trying to figure out what has transpired and what their purposes should be at any given time and place as they move among scenes from *Hamlet*. In a world that so often seems full of ambiguous choices, endless diversions, limitless incidents, and countless individuals competing to fulfill their own desires, Stoppard might be arguing that we each might risk the choice that over all other options, priorities, goals, and issues, we should strive to uphold the principle, *primum non nocere*- first do no harm. We can choose. We have options. We can elect to say 'no.'"

Hobbs described the 24 -member cast as broken down into three social castes: The Poor, The Wanabees, and The Beautiful People. "All groups have their own way of speaking and carrying themselves. We can detect the different characters through their actions," said Hobbs. "The Poor can be identified by their need for day-to-day survival, to serve and die at the whim of The Beautiful People. The Wanabees are seen as social climbers, living in hopes of becoming The Beautiful People. The Beautiful People are at the top of the rung. They uphold tradition and exercise power over the other groups. It is among these groups that Rosencrantz and Guildenstern invisibly move," he continued.

Kerry Cripe, USI theatre professor will play the role of Rosencrantz. This is Cripe's first appearance on the USI stage. He can usually be found backstage, where he has served as technical director since 1997. He is currently the director of the theatre program at USI.

Jason McCord, a USI theatre student, plays the role of Guildenstern. McCord has been seen in the USI productions of *All My Sons* (November 1999), *The Dining Room* (February 2000), *The Sea Plays* (November 2000), and *Extremities* (February 2001).

Additional performances of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* will be April 19 at 7 p.m., April 20 and 21 at 8 p.m., April 25 and 26 at 7 p.m., April 27 and 28 at 8 p.m., and April 29 at 2 p.m. Schools interested in special matinee performances may call 812/465-7110 for more information. Performances will be in the USI Theatre at 3001 Igleheart Ave., Evansville, Indiana. Tickets are \$9 for general admission and \$7 for seniors(60+)/students. Reservations are recommended. For more information or to purchase tickets call 812/422-3970.

CAST

Rosencrantz.....	Kerry Cripe, Director of Theatre; Assistant Professor of Theatre
Guildenstern.....	.....Jason McCord; Evansville, Indiana
The Player.....	.....Aaron Bonds; Indianapolis, Indiana
Alfred.....	.....Joe Ciresi; Indianapolis, Indiana
Tragedian/Soldier.....	.....Joe Cunningham; Jefferson, Indiana
Tragedian.....	.....April Berry; Evansville, Indiana
Ambassador/Tragedian.....	.....Chad Blaylock; Evansville, Indiana
Tragedian.....	.....Allyson Overton; Newburgh, Indiana
Tragedian.....	.....Charles Walther; Evansville, Indiana
Hamlet.....	.....Joshua White; Princeton, Indiana
Ophelia.....	.....Kate Boyd; Mooresville, Indiana
Claudius.....	.....Jesse Phillips; Evansville, Indiana
Gertrude.....	.....Jessica Corbett; Evansville, Indiana
Polonius.....	.....Chris Passage; Fort Wayne, Indiana
Horatio.....	.....Matthew Gordon; Newburgh, Indiana
Audience Leader (1990s).....	.....Jondi Schmitt; Evansville, Indiana
Audience Leader (1930s) .....	.....Selah Specht; Cincinnati, Ohio
Audience Leader (1960s).....	.....Amanda Grube; Indianapolis, Indiana
Audience Member.....	.....Katie Deford; Bedford, Indiana
Audience Member.....	.....Alicia Kemp; Owensville, Indiana
Audience Member.....	.....Giavanna Palmintier; Evansville, Indiana
Audience Member.....	.....J.D. Rose; Evansville, Indiana
Audience Member.....Rachelle Turner; Evansville, Indiana
Audience Member.....Dustin Davis

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