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Free Public Reading of Musical About Gay Suicide and Faith

Tuesday Apr 21, 2015



Temple University will host a free public reading of the musical "Anthropomorphic," a project by the New York City-based non-profit Puppetry Arts New York on Monday May 11 at 2 p.m. The reading, performed by actors from both Temple University and area Philadelphia theatre companies will workshop the script and openly engage in discussions over scenes with each other and community leaders from area churches, theatre, and LGBT organizations.

Wrapped around the story of a young gay teenager's struggle with his family and his faith,

"Anthropomorphic" lures the audience into a world of human-like insects and animals whose own battle over religious and social balance pulls the young man into the self discovery that he is someone to be loved.

"The Goal," says writer Tim Young of Puppetry Arts, "Is to enhance the artistic merit of the script helping to ensure its impact and to build awareness of the project overall."

With funding from various foundations such as the National Endowment for the Arts, "Anthropomorphic" has been workshopped in New York and Philadelphia with the aspiration of showcasing the musical on stage. The script calls for large dragons and ogres performed Bunraku style, masked actors anthropomorphed into spiders and scorpions with body parts supported by puppeteers, and a plethora of color and movement of creatures both on the ground and in the air.

Having no composer committed to the project as of yet, Young has focused on the script and production side, hoping to inspire a gifted and creative composer to join the team. "Anthro's music I envision would be like that of Sondheim's 'Sweeney Todd' meets Henson's 'The Dark Crystal.' I guess you'd call that Bjork."

The "Anthropomorphic" reading and workshop takes place Monday May 11 at 2 p.m. in the Rehearsal Hall of Tomlinson Theatre of Temple University. Individuals interested in being part of the reading and workshop are invited to info@puppetryarts.org | contact info@puppetryarts.org or call 718 678 3703.



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