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ENTERTAINMENT

CU troupe updates 500-year-old morality play 'Everyman'

'There will be a lot of spectacle' in Boulder show

By A.H. Goldstein
For the Camera

POSTED: 02/16/2018 05:55:10 AM MST



A publicity photo for University of Colorado Theatre and Dance's production of "Everyman." (Glenn J. Asakawa / University of Colorado)

If you go

What: CU Presents Production of "Everyman," adapted by Carol Ann Duffy

When: Feb. 23 to March 4

Where: University Theatre, University of Colorado campus, Boulder

Cost: \$20

More info: 303-492-8008, [cupresents.org \(<https://cupresents.org/event/1357/cu-theatre/everyman/>\)](https://cupresents.org/event/1357/cu-theatre/everyman/)

public's universal access to cellphones and social media, this show will seek to recreate the energy and immediacy of a public square performance.

"We're using the technology of today to return to a potential interactivity and connectivity that existed in earlier theatrical forms," said director Will Lewis, a Ph.D.

That dynamic ties directly to the major themes of the piece. The medieval play saw the titular lead character Everyman facing an existential crisis — to improve his afterlife. Everyman ultimately learns that he is alone on his journey, and that his own good deeds during life are his only accompaniment.

The modern take strips away the religious connotations of the original, and focuses on the importance of community and spirituality. In an age where self-interest I

"A major recurring theme is how a contemporary society built on individualism and narcissism connected to technology is causing us to be less and less connected

The production seeks to harness technology to impart these messages about its dangers, Lewis said. Live tweeting, streaming and Instagram will be encouraged during certain point in the show.

In a way, this approach summons the interactivity of a medieval performance. In another, it harnesses the omnipresent role of tech and interconnectivity to stress the

"I think the interactivity captivates the audience even more ... I think it also helps, because the audience is so involved, it's not as if we're on a soap box," said actor Lewis. "I think it helps captivate younger audiences."

He added, "I think the theater that we're going to be doing is a relatively new concept."

The approach seeks to stress interactivity as opposed to preachiness, and conversation in lieu of sermonizing. Unlike the morality plays of the Middle Ages, this medieval

It's also an opportunity for some pretty cool effects.

"Part of my concept is not necessarily a critique, but to examine and to highlight what it means to be part of this hyper-driven media culture," Lewis said. "We're interested in

Even so, the basic structure of the narrative has strong ties to the original piece that circulated around the Western world for hundreds of years. The concept of an interactive

What's more, the ideas of good deeds and selflessness aren't the sole property of medieval Christianity. They're universal moral tenets, features of religions and philosophies

"The question of what it means to be a good person, what is really and truly important in life, the idea that if you meet someone who needs help, don't ask them, just help them

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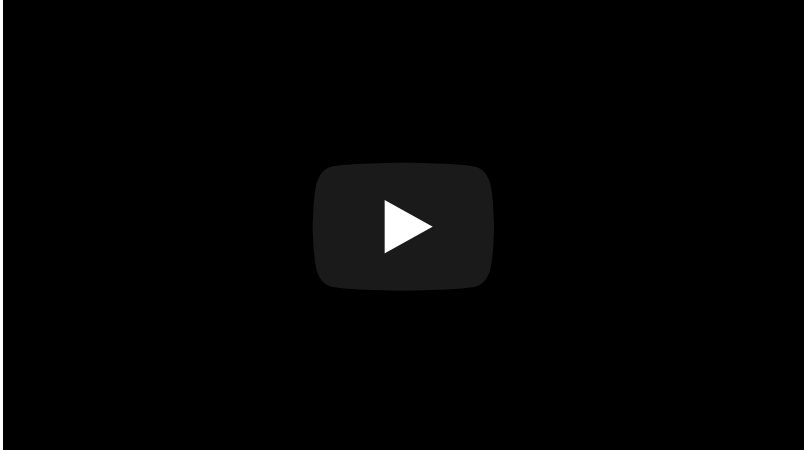
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