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Auditions for ‘The Taming of the Shrew’ August 19-20 at ABAC

TIFFON— Auditions for the Baldwin Players’ production of William Shakespeare’s “The Taming of the Shrew” will be held at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College on Aug. 19-20 at 6:30 p.m. in Conger Hall, Room 319. Auditions are open to all ABAC students, faculty, staff, and the community. The play will run from Oct. 31-Nov. 2.

“The Taming of the Shrew” is a comedy about the courtship of Petruchio, a gentleman of Verona, and Katherina, the headstrong, inflexible shrew. Initially, Katherina is an unwilling participant in the relationship, but Petruchio irritates her with various psychological torments, thus the “taming”, until she becomes a willing bride. The subplot features a competition between the suitors of Katherina's more desirable sister, Bianca.

The play's obvious misogynistic features have become the subject of considerable controversy, particularly among modern audiences and readers. It has been adapted numerous times for stage, screen, opera, and musical theatre; perhaps the most famous adaptations being Cole Porter's musical “Kiss Me, Kate” and the film “10 Things I Hate About You”, which was...
loosely based on the play. The Baldwin Players’ production will be an original adaptation by Dr. Brian Ray, the Director of the Baldwin Players.

The cast includes **Katherina (Kate) Minola**, the "shrew"; **Bianca**, sister of Katherina and the ingénue; **Baptista Minola**, father of Katherina and Bianca; **Petruchio**, suitor of Katherina; **Gremio**, elderly suitor of Bianca; **Lucentio**, suitor of Bianca who spends some of play disguised as Cambio, a Latin tutor; and **Hortensio**, suitor of Bianca and friend to Petruchio who spends some of the play disguised as Litio, a music tutor.

Ray said nothing needs to be prepared or memorized for the audition. No experience doing Shakespeare is required. There are speaking roles for 11 men (teens-50s) and three women (two in the age range of teens-20s, and one up to 40s). There are also some non-speaking roles available.

The production will run from Oct. 31-Nov. 2 in Howard Auditorium at 7 p.m. each night. Admission is free to ABAC faculty, staff and students. There is a $7 admission fee for the general public. This play deals with adult themes and situations.

For more information, interested persons can contact Ray at (229) 391-4969 or at bray@abac.edu.

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