Auditions for ‘The Whipping Man’ January 20-21 at ABAC

TIFTON – Auditions for the Baldwin Players spring production of “The Whipping Man” will be held Jan. 20-21 at 6:30 p.m. in Conger Hall, Room 323 at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Dr. Brian Ray, Director of the Baldwin Players, said the play commemorates the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War.

Ray said the “The Whipping Man” by Matthew Lopez is an intimate look into the lives of three Jews. One of the lead characters is a badly wounded Confederate soldier and the other two
are his former slaves. Set in April of 1865, the characters experience ever-changing interpersonal roles, corroding faiths, and basic survival just after General Lee surrenders at Appomattox. The play is a story of bindings of chains, love, and faith as well as secrets.

Auditions for the production are open to anyone interested in live theatre including ABAC students, staff, faculty, and local community members. The auditions will consist of reading selected passages from the play itself. There are three roles available, two for African American men and one for a white male. There is no cost to audition.

“Because race is such a key historical element of the time and because it is one of the issues that had a major influence over the social changes that began with the end of the Civil War and continue to this day, the race of the actors to be cast in this play is a serious issue,” Ray said. “In fact, it is crucial for the telling of this story that the two former slaves in this play be played by African-American men.”

Performances of “The Whipping Man” will take place March 5-7 at 7 p.m. at the Peanut Museum of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village at ABAC. Admission is free to ABAC faculty, staff and students. The ticket cost is $7 per person for the general public.

For more information about auditions, interested persons can contact Ray at bray@abac.edu.

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