

# 33rd Street Productions gearing up for a fantastic semester

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Art does more than entertain us; it inspires us, challenges us, and is just really fun to make as well. That is the philosophy behind IIT's student-run theatre group 33rd Street Productions where IIT, Vandercook, and Shimer students come together and put on some of the best theatre productions in the business. Perhaps you have heard of, or were lucky enough to see for yourself one of their famous performances, and perhaps you too have considered yourself worthy of the opportunity to escape yourself within the wonders of a world of imagination. If this idea intrigues you and you would like to see the scenic magic for yourself, or, dare I say it, if YOU want to be a part of a true institution of an organization, you're in luck; the upcoming fall semester has so much to offer your stage-lusting heart.

Speaking of lust, the first show on 33rd's agenda is David Ives' 2010 award-winning production inspired by and subsequently named after Leopold von Sacher-Masoch's novel *Venus in Furs*. This two-person play, or play-within-a-play, investigates the ever-so-fragile power dynamic of the writer-director Thomas Novachek as he is trying to cast his own adaptation of the risqué novel, and actress Vanda, who arrives to audition for the lead character Wanda von Dunayev, a role for whom our writer/director has heretofore been unable to find someone worthy. Surrounding the gripping series of events that takes place during the reading with Novachek playing the part of Severin von Kushemski, the show is a must see and a great introduction to the kinds of things 33rd Street Productions is planning all next year. Tuesday, August 18th, in the wakes of Welcome Week, at 5:30 PM in

the Hermann Hall Auditorium, is when you can expect to see for yourself the first show of a jam-packed semester. Keep an eye out for advertisements for the event; you'll know them when you see them.

Once you have seen the play, you might be wondering yourself how you might approach being a part in one of 33rd's productions, well you are in luck, because shortly after *Venus in Furs* makes its IIT debut, auditions are scheduled for the three upcoming productions they are planning for the semester from August 31st to September 3rd in the Herman Hall Auditorium. There are a lot of roles to fill, so whether you are a theatre veteran or have never been on a stage in your life, don't be afraid to try out for a role; you just might be exactly what they're looking for.

The first and by far the largest and most time-intensive performance that auditions are being held for is their fall musical, *Avenue Q*. Mixing puppetry and live-action, *Avenue Q* touches on and finds humor from adult themes and situations with an element of absurdity at their presentation, being similar to that of children's programming, most notably Sesame Street, with numerous similarities in story-telling styles and characterization between the two. The show is scheduled to debut November 13th, and run for two weeks on each Friday and Saturday evening. Making this show will not be easy, so that's why 33rd needs all the help it can get in bringing it to life. Students interested in trying out for this performance should prepare a short, one-to-two-minute comedic monologue and be prepared to sing an *Avenue Q* song during the audition dates above. Monologues can be from a play, from a book, or if you fancy yourself a writer, one you've written yourself, as long as it shows off your ability to read comedic content

compellingly. For the sake of ease, acceptable songs and comedic monologues will be available at the auditions, so there is no reason to not try out.

In addition to their musical, in anniversary of former Illinois Governor Quinn signing same sex marriage into law in 2013, 33rd is also casting for their second run of *Standing on Ceremony: the Gay Marriage Plays*, which is back by popular demand from last year's showcase. Deemed by playbill.com as, "a staged reading benefiting the Human Rights Campaign," *Standing On Ceremony* presents a set of short plays connected by a deeper message of gay tolerance, rights, and most centrally, as the name suggests, marriage. Powerful, beautiful, and at times, exceptionally funny, 33rd is looking for open-minded students who can pull off some compelling and sometimes shocking character types in an amusing way for this performance. The performance is scheduled for September 25th and 26th, and if all goes to plan, in the glory of the serene wilderness (in other words, outside) to make it as joyous an occasion as physically possible. Auditions will entail selected readings from the play, so if this play interests you, don't hesitate to wait with bated breath for the August 31st audition date.

The third will be a story-telling showcase that exemplifies elements of horror, suspense, and mystery called *Tales of Torture, Mystery, and the Macabre*. This show is expected to utilize the theatre-in-the-round style setting of Keating's Basketball Court to capture a story-telling atmosphere, and is planned to take place right after the annual IIT Pumpkin Launch held every Family Weekend. Your nameless host will present to you three classic, spine-chilling short stories from some of the greatest horror writers of history: The

Squaw, by Bram Stoker, Accessory Before the Fact by Algernon Blackwood, and The Masque of Red Death by Edgar Allen Poe, with special appearances by some surprising names. For this performance, 33rd is in need of some actors with a knack for Drama, Suspense, and capital 'R' Romance. Students auditioning will be asked to read one of the selected readings from the performance, so catch up on your Gothic poetry...while you still have time.

Students can audition for any combinations of the plays that they'd like, and if willing, students may even get more than one role. For safe measure though, it is highly recommended that you practice some of the songs for the musical over the summer for the best chances of getting a part in it.

To learn more about upcoming events, audition dates, and expectations, head over to 33rd Street Productions' Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/33rd.iit](http://www.facebook.com/33rd.iit), or write them at [33rd.iit@gmail.com](mailto:33rd.iit@gmail.com) and make sure to keep an eye out for advertisements for the auditions placed at strategic points around the campus. If you don't find time in your busy schedule this semester but still want to stay in the loop, liking the Facebook page also gives you the lowdown on future auditions, like for the Shakespeare play planned for Spring 2016, and more information on the performances on some of the best in the business.

Finally, all that learning of scripts and rehearsing isn't your thing, keep an eye out for advertisements about 33rd Street Productions' exclusive Improv Troupe 2sense Improv, which is planning some great stuff for the upcoming semester too. To learn more, you can go to their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/untitledimprov>, or contact 33rd Street directly via the methods described above.

**All incoming students are  
expected to be back on campus  
on Friday, August 14!**

**Be sure you are moved into your Residence Hall room in  
time for Convocation at 3:30 pm (Friday, August 14) for an  
official welcome to IIT!**



**Parent Reception starts at 5:30 pm in  
The Bog.**

**Student Activities kick-off at 6:00 pm in the  
Hermann Hall Expo!**



**For the latest on Welcome Week, visit:  
[web.iit.edu/campus-life/events/welcome-week](http://web.iit.edu/campus-life/events/welcome-week)**

**Talon's Timewarp**

