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Contact: Jaye Alderson,
aldersonj@ripon.edu, 920-748-8364

Auditions to be held Wednesday for student-directed, one-act horror play

RIPON – A new one-act play, written and directed by Pierce Reese-Grimm '24 of Wautoma, Wisconsin, will be presented Friday, April 26, at Ripon College. The performance will begin at 7 p.m. in Benstead Theatre, C.J. Rodman Center for the Arts, on the campus. Admission is free and open to the public.

The performance is part of the Rodman Arts Celebration, which will offer a poetry reading, student-written one-act play, concert and student art exhibit opening starting at 6 p.m.

“Ties that Bind and Break” tells a surreal story about two sisters surviving supernatural events in their haunted family home.

Members of the cast are Liliana Haddox '26 of Chugiak, Alaska, as Jennifer; Arianna Alirez '26 of Anchorage, Alaska, as Daisy; Corrina Torres '26 of Menomonie, Wisconsin, as Mom; and Molly Montgomery '24 of Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, as The Hare.

The technical staff includes Professor of Theatre John G. Dalziel '02, technical director; Derek Veltstra '24 of Sherrill, Iowa, stage manager; Benjamin Marn '23 of Brookfield, Wisconsin, assistant stage manager; Logan Neuendorf '26 of Beaver Dam Wisconsin, light board operator; Angelina Bahr '26 of Ellison Bay, Wisconsin, sound board operator; Linda Powell of Ripon, Wisconsin, costume shop manager; Maricarmen Dorantes '25 of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Liliana Sevilla, costume construction crew; and Jasmine Greuel '27 of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Hunter Hille '25 of Warren, Illinois, Kinsley Kahl '26 of Monona, Wisconsin, Logan Neuendorf '26 of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, and Sophia Pieters '27 of Middleton, Wisconsin, members of the scenery, construction and lighting crew.

Reese-Grimm is majoring in business management and economics with a theatre minor. He wrote the play last year as an independent study for his theatre minor.

He has enjoyed the performing arts since middle school and has performed in two Once-Act Play festival productions and the full-length play “God of Carnage” at Ripon College. He hopes to go into performing arts management as a career.

He has incorporated horror aspects into his production than typically are seen in college productions. “I want to focus on ensemble acting and incorporate that sort of energy of horror into a play. I’m hoping the audience will enjoy the horror aspect, think about their own

interactions with their families and have a different experience than what they might expect from a college production.”

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Ripon College, founded in 1851, prepares students of diverse interests for lives of productive, socially responsible citizenship. Ripon’s liberal arts and sciences curriculum and residential campus create an intimate learning community in which students experience a richly personalized education. In recognition of its academic excellence, the college was awarded a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa in 1953, placing it among a select group of the nation’s top colleges. Visit ripon.edu.