



# University of Wisconsin Whitewater

## **AUDITIONS** for the first play of the Theatre/Dance season

**Actors / Dancers / Musicians**

### ***A Place with the Pigs* by Athol Fugard**

Auditions will take place through video submission and face to face. You can try-out either way. A callback audition is also possible for this production and, if needed, you will be notified. Otherwise, casting will be announced by 9/6.

- **Video audition submissions will be accepted until Friday, September 3**
- **Live auditions will take place from 7:30PM-9:30PM on September 3 in the Barnett Theatre on the UW Whitewater campus (Greenhill Center of the Arts)**

If you will be submitting a video audition please record and submit video to the production director, Bruce Cohen (CohenBe@UWW.edu).

- **PERFORMANCE DATES** October 12 – 15 @ 7:30 pm & October 16 @ 2:00 pm
- **REHEARSALS:** Begin September 6. Monday - Friday from 7:00 – 10:00 pm (some Saturday and Sunday meetings will be scheduled as well. Weekend availability is necessary during the week prior to opening).

\*This is a live, face-to-face theatrical production. If needed, we will shift to adhere to UW Whitewater public health mandates. This may change with short notice and changes could include masking, distancing and virtual technologies.

**This is an open call and the entire campus and community are invited.**

You do not have to be a Theatre/Dance major or UW Whitewater student to audition. Prior experience is not necessary. Additionally, this production will be cast exclusive of gender definition. Regardless of identity, you are invited to audition for any of the roles available.

### **Reminder for UW-Whitewater BFA & Pre-BFA Performance Students:**

ALL admitted BFA-Performance students and ALL pre-BFA-Performance students are required to audition for all productions and accept any production assignment as given.

<https://www.uww.edu/documents/colleges/cac/TheatreDance/Forms/BFA%20Forms/BFAguidelines.pdf>

**Please read the play prior to accepting a role.**

If you have any questions that have not been answered; please feel free to contact Bruce Cohen ([CohenBe@uww.edu](mailto:CohenBe@uww.edu)).



## **PLAY AND CAST BREAKDOWN**

### ***A Place with the Pigs*** by Athol Fugard

The plot of *A Place with the Pigs* is based on an absurd but true story, this poignant and sometimes hilarious tale is about a Russian soldier who deserted during World War II and spent ten years hiding in his pigsty. As the play begins, Pavel Ivanovitch Navrotsky is preparing to rejoin the world and throw himself on the mercy of his countrymen, but his wife has used his old uniform for rags and he refuses to wear the suit she has pressed. Instead, she goes alone to the ceremony to unveil a monument to the war dead and returns reporting that the townspeople wept at the mention of him and his martyr's death fighting fascism. Also, a local bigwig proposed to her now that she is officially a widow. What should she do? Will Pavel Ivanovitch ever be able to leave the pigsty, or is it his only safe haven?

### CAST

- **Pavel:** Pavel is a Red Army deserter. At the beginning of the play Pavel is a decade into self-imprisonment in the sty. Age: 28-38. Pavel owned a pig farm before conscription. Pavel may sing and dance.
- **Praskovya:** Praskovya is Pavel's spouse and enables the self-imprisonment. Praskovya has been running the farm and concealing Pavel from the citizens of the town. Age: 25-35. Praskovya will sing and dance
- **The Pigs:** The Pigs are both fantastical and tangible. Because of this, the production intends to include a dance corps of 2 to 6 that will portray these elements.

If you are auditioning for Pavel, Praskovya or the Pigs/Dance Corps, please prepare the following (this applies regardless of video or live):

- A two-minute monologue from a contemporary play or a two-minute cutting from *A Place with the Pigs*.
- 16-32 bars of an a Capella folk song
- A detail of your movement/dance training and experience (if you are able, please include a brief segment of dance/movement on your video submission; or a link to an example of your work).

**Musicians:** Music and sound will be an important part of this production. We would like to include live instrumentation on stage. Musicians will be considered part of the performance ensemble.

- **If you are auditioning for live instrumentation**, please submit your performance resume and sample of your work. We are especially looking for players comfortable with improvisation and familiar with interwar jazz and Eastern European/Slavic folk styles.



**SOVIET DESERTER DISCOVERED AFTER 41 YEARS IN PIGSTY**

By [Seth Mydans, Special To the New York Times](#)

May 27, 1985

Two weeks after a triumphant celebration of the Soviet victory in World War II, a newspaper here has published an account of a Red Army deserter who was discovered recently after spending 41 years hiding in a pigsty.

The deserter, bearded, ragged and unwashed, now 74 years old, was found by astonished villagers only after the death of his wife, whom he had terrorized into hiding and feeding him, the weekly newspaper Nedelya reported this weekend.

The newspaper said that when the terrified deserter, Pavel Navrotsky, came face to face with strangers for the first time in four decades, all he could find to say was, "Will I be punished?" Periodically since the end of the war, the Soviet press has told similar stories of deserters who have been found or turned themselves in after years of hiding. As in the case of Mr. Navrotsky, they are said to have been spared punishment, with the sentiment, as Nedelya put it, that "nobody in the world could punish him as harshly as his own fear has punished him."

**Showing the Darker Side**

Several years ago, the Soviet director Grigory Chukhrai made a well-received film portrayal of one such deserter who spent years in an attic, going slowly blind from the lack of light and watching through a chink in the wall as the life of his village went on without him.

These occasional tales of deserters offer a darker, poignant side of World War II that contrasts with the heroic portrayal of the war - even of its victims - that reached a crescendo this month with the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the victory over the German invaders. During the war, not only deserters but also men who had been captured by the enemy were harshly treated by the Russians, and many thousands were shot or sent to labor camps. But with the passage of years, the newspaper accounts have cast the deserters as social misfits who are beneath anger or condemnation.

Nedelya described Mr. Navrotsky as a weakling who surrendered immediately to the Germans when they swept into the Ukraine in 1941. "The Germans figured him out right away," it said. "They sent him back home, well aware that this cowardly man would cause them no harm."



# University of Wisconsin Whitewater

## **Took Walk in Woman's Dress**

When his tiny village, Sarazhentsy, was liberated in 1944, Mr. Navrotsky took refuge in the pigsty attached to his wooden house, the newspaper said. In all the years since, he went out for a walk only once, late at night, dressed as a woman, it said.

His wife, Praskovya, whom he threatened to kill if she betrayed him, hid him through the years, cutting herself off from friends and relatives to maintain his secret. Whenever she left the house, the newspaper said, she locked a heavy padlock on the door.

The account echoes the story told in the press some years ago of a collaborator who hid under a bed for nearly 20 years, finally surrendering in 1962, only to discover that he had been pardoned five years before.

In 1966, a village schoolteacher named Terenti Sechin, who was thought to have died in the battle of Stalingrad, also turned himself in to police in his village near that city, now known as Volgograd.

## **Hid in Barefoot Stealth**

He had hidden for 24 years in his brother's house, moving about in barefoot stealth, and had not allowed his wife and daughter to visit him for fear of discovery.

He, too, was pardoned, but was told he could not return to work at a school because "you have no moral right to teach others."

In 1974, another deserter, Vasily Khvyl, surrendered after living for 30 years hidden in a barn in the Ukrainian village of Ostrozhets.

"I don't try to justify myself," the youth newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda quoted him as saying. "Despite the fact that I am forgiven, I know that I am guilty."

A version of this article appears in print on May 27, 1985, Section 1, Page 2 of the National edition with the headline: SOVIET DESERTER DISCOVERED AFTER 41 YEARS IN PIGSTY.