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Candide Press Release

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Theatre Arts Program

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROVIDENCE, R.I. -- Candide, the long-running Broadway hit, will be the next production presented by the Providence College Theatre Arts Program. The Tony-Award winning production is the musical comedy version of Voltaire's satire on Pollyanna-like optimists. John Garrity is the director managing the traffic of the musical panorama of multiple scenes and characters, which is scheduled to run the evenings of March 1st through 5th, in Harkins Hall Auditorium.

With a much praised musical score by Leonard Bernstein, Candide traces the wanderings of a young wide-eyed German youth who, with his equally ^{alive} ~~alive~~ sweetheart, Cunegonde- is wrenched from his home by wandering invaders, and proceeds to range across Europe and South America looking vainly for moral values in a corrupt world. Candide goes from one kind of mass slaughter to another- and he takes it all- flogging, kidnapping, robbery, and enslavement- and still comes up smiling, bouncing back with his master's assurance, that this is "the best of all possible worlds." He remains an indefatigable optimist, or just plain fool in the face of the evidence.

Hugh Wheeler, of A Little Night Music fame adapted Voltaire's satire for the production, and Richard Wilbur served as lyricist for Bernstein's music. Additional lyrics were provided by Stephen Sondheim and John LeTouch.

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This "parade of disasters is hilarious," but the big feature of Candide is the superlatively praised music. Clive Barnes of the New York Times wrote: "Conceivably Candide has the best score ever written for a Broadway musical, even among the giants like Gershwin, Porter and Rogers..."

Curtain time is 8:00 pm for Candide. Tickets are \$3.50 for General Admission, and \$2.50 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the Slavin Center Information Desk. Tickets may be reserved by calling 865-2444. Tickets will be available at the door.

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