

For Immediate Release
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‘An Evening with Mark Twain’ comes to Ferris

BIG RAPIDS – “An Evening with Mark Twain,” a hilarious and insightful recreation of an actual lecture that the world famous humorist and author would have given during his highly-acclaimed world tour culminating in 1905, will be staged March 19 at Ferris State University.

Critically acclaimed New York actor Michael Mauldin brings this theatrical tour-de-force to the stage, having toured the country several times with the show since 1976. He undergoes a make-up transformation of almost three hours to achieve an uncanny likeness to the 70 year-old "Grand Old Man of American Letters."

The performance is the final presentation of the 2004-05 Live! at Williams Performing Arts Series and begins at 8 p.m. in Williams Auditorium. In conjunction with the production, Ferris will conduct special make-up and acting workshops earlier that day.

In his customary white suit and ever-present cigar, Twain takes his audience through a fascinating panoply of uproarious comedy, gentle reminiscence, biting social satire, and often dark commentary on the human condition, all seen through the eyes of a man who was at the top of the literary and social spectrum for most of his life. Having reached the age and level of esteem where he felt free to say what was on his mind, he had no fear of censure.

In addition to his five national tours covering more than 40 of the United States, Mauldin's performance as Twain has aired on PBS, NPR, and was adapted into a one-hour ABC special titled “Mark Twain: Sketches from Life.”

Tickets are \$8 for students, \$22 for Ferris faculty and staff and \$24 for general admission, and can be ordered online at www.ferris.edu/arts or by calling 231-591-5600. The Williams Auditorium ticket office, located in the auditorium lobby, is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and two hours before the performance. Persons needing special accommodations to attend this show may call the auditorium office at 231-591-3676.

STAGE-M, the local community theater group, and Live! at Williams are offering a make-up workshop from noon-2 p.m. presented by Rose Kurzyniec. She will guide participants through the application of basic make-up for the stage. All persons participating will receive a make-up kit for their own use.

Mauldin will present an acting workshop, titled “Acting Without Fear,” beginning at 2:30 p.m. The session provides “a simple, direct approach to acting” and is geared for the beginning student. It is also ideal for those students who are just starting in acting training, or who may be having difficulties with the symptoms of “stage fright.” This workshop includes a ticket to “An Evening with Mark Twain.”

The cost for the workshops is \$25 for each session. Registration may be made by contacting the auditorium ticket office.