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enhanced the quality of its production a great deal.

"I think that our students are learning from the community members, just as the people from the community are learning from the students," Gesteland said. "It's just really neat to see people come together from all walks of life for the arts."

Holding the opening performance in Akron, IA continues the goal of outreach set by the USD Music Department.

"We really would like to see this become a quad-state area tradition, and eventually involve more people from the Vermillion community and also from other area communities," Gesteland said. "I was so impressed with the Vermillion Community Theatre this summer, and if we can tap into that level of talent in this community, the annual production will just keep getting better and better."

Cast members are USD senior Halie Limoges of Canton as Amahl; Dr. Gesteland as The Mother; Jon Brown, a senior from Rapid City as King Kaspar; graduate student William Darwin of Sioux City, IA, as King Melchior; Anthony Hunt, a senior from Pierre as King Balthazar; and freshman Cody Perk of Yankton, as The Page.

Angelica Elwell, Avalon Kann and Sara Otteman are

ABOVE: Pictured are Mary Vickrey, Halie Limoges, Tracelyn Gesteland, Jon Brown, Ryan Landis, William Darwin and Cody Perk. BELOW: Amahl (Halie Limoges) and Jon Brown (King Kaspar) rehearse a scene Monday night. (Photos by David Lias)



dancers for the production while chorus members include Laura Bertschinger, Megan Donohoo, Kristin Edwards, Tom Emanuel, Mary Green Vickrey, Clint Johnson, Ashley Keyes, Solveig Korte, Ryan Landis, Sarah Marsolek, Ashley Evelyn Mazur, Philip Munkvold, Devin Patrick, Cody Perk, Tucker Ramhorst, Amanda Rich, Walker Rose, Jennirae Sullivan and Kendra Van Nyhuis.

Rick Piersall, A.B.D., assistant professor of voice, serves as technical director, and Patricia Downey, A.B.D., director of musical theatre at USD, is choreographer. Pianist is Parker

Knox while Donohoo is stage manager and Van Nyhuis is the off-stage chorus conductor.

Tickets for the Akron production are available at the Akron Opera House at (712) 568-8747 or at the door the day of the performance. A Christmas reception will follow at the Akron Museum immediately after the Dec. 5 performance. For Colton Recital Hall, which is located at the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts, tickets are only available at the door.

For more information, please contact Tracelyn.Gesteland@usd.edu.

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Paul Schiller (left) discusses one of the photos of his exhibit "State of Wonder" with Chuck Lubbers, chair of the Department of Contemporary Media and Journalism at USD.

ing Paul for that and much, much more."

Using panoramic, wide-angle, telephoto and macro photography to re-imagine scenes that often are overlooked by South Dakotans and visitors alike, "State of Wonder" captures the beauty and uniqueness of South Dakota from border to border.

Schiller's exhibit is all about South Dakota, whether it's aerial photographs of landmarks such as Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Memorial or images that offer a new perspective to the state's scenery, such as its plains, rolling terrain, rivers, Badlands, the Black Hills, vast sky and dramatic weather.

"It tells a story," said Schiller, who became interested in photography as a USD student when he was photo editor of The Volante. The exhibit "dispels the myth that South Dakota is dull, flat and boring."

Schiller said Marsh proposed the exhibit to him. After discussing potential costs and settling on a timeframe, Schiller selected the images and made the prints. He can't decide which of the 42 photographs is his favorite, adding, "it depends on the day." The project is funded with donations from several South Dakota businesses and individuals, many of who were in attendance at Thursday's festivities.

"Paul has looked at life through the lens (of a camera) for a very long time," said Craig Lawrence, co-founder of Lawrence & Schiller of Sioux Falls. Lawrence first met Schiller 42 years ago in the office of The Volante on the USD campus. Schiller was the newspaper's photographer; Lawrence worked as a Volante reporter. Thirty-four years ago, the two men teamed up to form Lawrence and Schiller, which today is one of the region's leading marketing firms, providing businesses and institutions with expertise in traditional print, radio and television advertising, and social media, web strategy and mobile marketing.

"When we began at The Volante, we set out to capture an event or a moment in words and photos, and in it's simplest form, that's what we've been doing together ever since," Lawrence said. "I've reflected on the ease of this relationship between us, and I count as a blessing that such a deep one has been hammered out over the passing decades."

Schiller's father introduced him to photography. "I had the honor to be taught a little about photography from him," he said. "He could squeeze more images out of a roll of 36-exposure film than I've ever seen in my life.

He loved that camera; he loved the pictures that he took that were mostly of family and landscapes, and I got hooked.

"He challenged me, and he taught me, and then he let me go," Schiller said. "Then it was up to me, but that's where it all started. He's just such a remarkable human being, and you can't help but be taught in the right way by a man like that."

He is humbled to have his photos on permanent display at USD. "To be honored by your alma mater for work that has been a lifelong passion is just incredibly humbling and an absolute thrill.

"To be able to see and hear all of you as we installed the show – as all of the people began to see these images – it's a remarkable experience to see how you react, and how people react to different images. That's what makes it so intriguing and exciting," Schiller said.

The photo exhibit has served as the genesis, he added, of a book that will be forthcoming sometime in the next 24 months.

"It will be written by Craig Lawrence, with photographs by me, about South Dakota, and it will be named "State of Wonder." It's going to be an absolute thrill to work with him on this project," he said.

After the book is published, an hour-long television documentary with the same name will be produced and aired on South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

"The book will be used as a premium to help fundraise for public broadcasting," Schiller said. Professor Stephen Yarbrough of the USD Music Department will compose original music for the documentary.

Schiller and his wife, Connie, are also keeping busy with their new venture, Acts of Nature.

"This is probably one of the more rewarding things that I've experienced in my lifetime," he said. "It came totally as a surprise. We're starting to work with corporate clients, healthcare clients, individuals, and truly seeing how art can have impact in homes, and more so in businesses and in healthcare.

"It is driving us to give new life in areas, especially in hospitals and clinics, where they need a positive experience," Schiller said. "I'm thrilled to be a part of that – to be able to help people through hard times with positive impressions."

"State of Wonder" is on exhibit 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, on the second floor of the Al Neuharth Media Center, 555 Dakota St., Vermillion.

USD hosts denim drive, raises over 1,100 pairs of jeans

Cotton Incorporated, a program designed and operated to improve the demand and profitability of cotton, selected the University of South Dakota as one of the sites for its COTTON. FROM BLUE TO GREEN.® denim drive. Organizing the drive was USD's student-run advertising and public relations agency, U.Envision.

USD was one of only eight universities in the United States chosen to help lead the effort in collecting denim for reusable purposes. The collected denim will be converted into UltraTouch natural cotton fiber insulation and donated to help communities in need. Through various

events, like the Dakota Days parade, U.Envision was able to collect over 1,100 pairs of jeans. The group's goal was 500 pairs, which is enough denim to insulate one home.

The COTTON. FROM BLUE TO GREEN.® denim drive lasted through the month of October. Collection bins were located throughout the USD campus, along with local businesses and high schools in Vermillion, Yankton, and Viborg. U.Envision is a student-run advertising and public relations agency at USD. The group works with many local clients and specializes in promotions, design, and event

planning.

Cotton Incorporated, funded by U.S. growers of upland cotton and importers of cotton and cotton textile products, is the research and marketing company representing upland cotton. The program is designed and operated to improve the demand for and profitability of cotton.

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