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CSA show pulls in stars again

Holiday performance also features local adults, 103 kids

By AJ Colley
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The devil returns to Grant County this weekend, as actor Michael DeLuise returns to Marion for the Community School of the Arts annual holiday show.

Home for the Holidays, featuring DeLuise and actor Daniel Roebuck, follows a former Grant County resident who returns from performing on Broadway to teach but finds things have dramatically changed. Meanwhile, the devil, DeLuise, tries to ruin the town.

"It's really moving," CSA Executive Director Mark Fauser said. "I think this truly could be the best show we've done as far as story is concerned."

The performance also features actor John D'Aquino, who appeared in last year's production. D'Aquino's character will speak from heaven. Although he couldn't be in town this year, he taped his parts in Los Angeles.

DeLuise said he enjoys coming to Marion, where he feels a different sense of character in the people and is accepted.

"I love Mark Fauser, and I love the people here," DeLuise said. "I get such a kick out of it."

Last time DeLuise was in town, he visited quite a few schools. This time, his schedule has been a bit different. He and Roebuck visited Justice Thurgood Marshall Middle School on Tuesday, but the actors decided to focus more on the show this time. DeLuise said last year felt like they were trying to do too much. The actors also have taken more time to rehearse with the children — there are 103 in this year's show.

"For me it's a really great way to spend the holiday season," DeLuise said, "somewhere the snow is, and (seeing) everybody focusing on the same ideas."

It's Roebuck's first time in Marion, and he said he loves it so far.

"I've been very taken with the people," he said, remarking on CSA. "My God, that's some talented people."

Although he's acted since the early '80s, Roebuck said he's never worked with so many children as an adult. But he welcomes the opportunity and said the kids are talented and have a lot of personality.

"I love it," he said. "I love that everybody is so enthusiastic. I pray that the community is enthusiastic and actually comes to the show."



Actor Michael DeLuise jokes around while being interviewed by eighth-graders Jenna Rawlings, left, and Brittany Olson for The After Show at Justice Thurgood Marshall Middle School. morehead@chronicle-tribune.com

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But Roebuck said there's more to the show than 103 kids.

"There are adults in this play too who are doing a great job as well," he said.

If you go:

What: Home for the Holidays CSA show.

When: 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

Where: F. Ritchie Walton Performing Arts Center in Marion High School, 750 W. 26th St.

Tickets: \$6 to \$20 based on location and student status; tickets at the door are \$15 for students and \$25 for non-students. Purchase tickets online at www.buycooltix.com

Featuring: Actor Michael DeLuise who has appeared in NYPD Blue, CSI and Wayne's World, and actor Daniel Roebuck who has appeared in The Fugitive, Matlock, CSI and Christmas is Here Again.

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