Cabrillo strikes comedic gold

"Black Snow" premieres Friday at Cabrillo College.

Comedy 'Black Snow' to make its Santa Cruz County premiere

By ERICK CHALHOUB
OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

APTOS — Keith Reddin's comedy, "Black Snow," will make its Santa Cruz County premiere Friday at Cabrillo College.

The play is based on Mikhail Bulgakov’s novel, "A Dead Man's Memoir," which is a fictionalized account of the author's experience as a playwright for the Moscow Art Theatre in the 1930s during a time of censorship.

The playwright, Sergei, discovers that the Theater of Moscow decides to make a play out of his failed novel, and he then finds himself at the mercy of the director, Ivan Vasilievich.

Robin Aronson, director of the Cabrillo College play, said she was asked to direct a contemporary comedy with a large cast.

She decided on "Black Snow" since it had never been shown in the county.

"I wanted to do something that the Santa Cruz audience hasn't seen before," Aronson said.

While the play is set in the 1930s, it was adapted from the story by Reddin, an American playwright, in 1983, Aronson said.

The play also fits the parameter of a large cast as well: Aronson said the cast of 18 actors will perform as 80 characters.

Most of these characters will be walk-throughs, she said, but the lead character, Sergei, is split into two different actors. One will be the narrator, speaking to the audience about his plight, while the other will act out the scenes.

It is a way to share the wealth among the actors, Aronson said.

With "Black Snow," Aronson said the audience will witness the work of Mikhail Bulgakov, who became famous only after he died.

"What's really thrilling to me is having his work and his voice alive in the world," she said.

"Black Snow" opens Friday and runs Friday and Saturday nights at 7:30 p.m. through Nov. 18. Matinee performances will be held Sunday, Nov. 11 and Nov. 18 at 2 p.m.

The play will be performed at the Cabrillo College Black Box Theater, 6500 Soquel Dr., in Aptos. Admission costs $19 general, $17 students/seniors, $14 with student activity card and $12 for children under 10. For tickets, call 478-6154 or visit www.cabrillo.edu.com.