

# Andree ready for Arts & Issues Series

Each academic year, the Arts & Issues series brings artistic excellence to the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville campus through an eclectic blend of speakers and performances.

On this week's episode of Segue, SIUE's premier radio show, Greg Budzban, College of Arts and Sciences dean, interviews Grant Andree, director of Arts & Issues, to discuss what the 2018-2019 season has in store for the campus community.

This episode will air at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 2 on WSIE 88.7 FM The Sound.

Over the years, the series has welcomed a distinguished and influential variety of guests to SIUE, including: astrophysicists; musicians; filmmakers; jazz, ballet and hip-hop dancers; astronauts; an animal scientist and autism rights activist; U.S. attorneys; authors; dance troupes; comedians; environmentalists; social activists; White House media correspondents; and many more.

"Some of our listeners are probably wondering how we bring such amazing people to campus," Budzban inquires.

"I like to say we are a mission-based performing arts series. We are not out here to make money," Andree says. "To present arts like ballet and classical music, we need support from our partners like Commerce Bank and TheBANK of Edwardsville.

"Our partners have helped us through thick and thin. SIUE Graduate School, SIUE Stu-

## Segue

dent Affairs, The Edwardsville Intelligencer, Madison County Regional Office of Education, Hampton Inn and Suites, WSIE-FM, and the Illinois Arts Council have helped us make it for 34 years and will help us make it for another 34!"

"It's a true testament to the SIUE community for continuing to support the quality speakers and art presentations that we continue to have," Budzban says.

SIUE's Department of Theater and Dance is also gearing up to host its ninth annual Xfest. The experimental festival will take place from Sept. 11-14 on SIUE's campus.

"Over the years, we've brought in more than 30 different companies from across the country, done 55 master classes, and involved over 1,200 SIUE students and area high school students," Andree says.

"The energy of that week in the department is incredible," Budzban mentions. "The students have access to national-level artists.

"At the end of the week, you can tell that Chuck Harper, the chair of theater and dance, needs a vacation! Chuck is the one who curates all these companies and does an amazing job," Andree mentions.

On Friday, Sept. 14, Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre (DRDT) will close out this year's Xfest. Deeply rooted in traditions of American and African American



Andree

dance, storytelling and universal themes, DRDT ignites an emotional response in diverse audiences worldwide.

Ten Directions, Rotimi Agbabiaka, and The Coldharts will also take the stage during the experimental theater festival.

On Nov. 6, Fred David Gray will present, "Bus Ride to Justice: The Montgomery Bus Boycott," to the campus community.

"Students and members of the community have the opportunity to encounter someone who has made history and someone who has made a true impact on the country," Andree says. "As a young lawyer in the 1950s, he was one of the architects of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which was arguably the beginning of the civil rights movement.

"He served as Rosa Parks'

attorney after she refused to give up her seat on the Montgomery city bus, and there was a young minister who just so happened to be in town. This whole episode introduced Martin Luther King Jr. to the world. It's quite the remarkable story!" Andree explains.

On Nov. 28, The Other Mozart will transfix audiences with the true, forgotten story of Maria Anna (Nannerl) Mozart, the sister of Amadeus. Written, created and performed by Sylvia Milo, the play is based on facts, stories and lines pulled from Mozart family's letters.

"We are also collaborating with the Friends of Music and will host a dinner at Fixin's before the show. For the \$25 dinner ticket, Arts & Issues will donate your ticket purchase to the Friends of Music scholarship fund for the SIUE students," Andree mentions.

On March 1, 2019, noted actor and activist Mike Farrell (M\*A\*S\*H, Providence) will perform his one-man show, Dr. Keeling's Curve. Farrell plays Dr. Charles David Keeling, the scientist whose research on carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) gave the world its first early warnings of global warming. In this performance, the actor brings to life the man who created the Keeling Curve, the chart that illustrates the rise in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels from 1958 to the present.

The Friends of Theater and Dance (FOTAD) will also host a fundraising pre-show dinner. And again, Arts & Issues will donate the ticket purchase

price for the performance to the FOTAD scholarship fund.

"What a wonderful initiative!" Budzban says. "Those groups are absolutely instrumental in helping our students."

On April 6, 2019, the Orchid Ensemble will fill the SIUE Center for Spirituality and Sustainability with a blend of ancient musical instruments and traditions from China and beyond. Established in 1997, the award-winning trio will perform a diverse catalog of works that breaks down musical genres.

Lastly, to close out the 2018-2019 season, the Inaugural Ann and Earl Lazerson Lecture Series presents Dr. John Q. Walker for his presentation, "Solving Alzheimer's" on Friday, April 12, 2019.

"Dr. Walker, an SIUE alumnus, uses a multivariable approach to try to limit, slow or roll back the progression of Alzheimer's," Andree says. "We're honored to have him back on campus, and it's amazing to have this biannual lecture series in the Arts & Issues programming."

Tickets for this season's Arts & Issues events can be purchased at artsandissues.com or by calling 1-866-698-4253. They may also be purchased on campus at the Morris University Center Information Desk.

Tune in at 9 a.m. this Sunday, Sept. 2, to hear Budzban and Andree's conversation in its entirety.

By Madelaine Deardeuff SIUE Marketing & Communications