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President's Performance, University Theatre Welcoming Remarks

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President's Performance, University Theatre
Welcoming Remarks
Dr. John M. Dunn
4/12/13

(Joan Herrington to introduce you shortly after 7 p.m. Theatre Guild President Ed Giffels will have spoken before her)

Thank you, Joan, for that wonderful introduction, and thank you Ed and the University Theatre Guild Board for what you do to support our students and our program.

Good evening and welcome to "Another Opening. Another Show." I'm so pleased you are here with us this evening to enjoy a performance of "Kiss Me, Kate." I like to note that this Cole Porter show, *which is considered a classic*, was introduced on Broadway in 1948, when I was a toddler. By association, I like to think that gives me some claim to the term "classic" as well.

- This is a chance for you to see and hear the extraordinary talent of our theatre students--the students you support year-round with scholarship funding and your attendance throughout the season.
- Without your support, students on stage and behind the scenes might not have the time and energy to invest in this production and so any others like it. It is, for them a labor of love, but one that also demands hundreds of hours of time as well -- the kind of time that only comes from having their tuition and fees offset by your generosity.

- We have been very fortunate this year in terms of corporate sponsors and supporters. This is exciting in that it means more dollars go to students and our Department of Theatre is able to produce the outstanding kind of season we've seen this year.

First, I want to take a few moments to simply say thank you to some people and organizations that made this evening possible and have been generous supporters of the University Theatre. I want to thank our sponsors for this evening's event. Producing Sponsors for the evening are:

- **Amerifirst Home Mortgage** – Mark Jones and his wife Toni, whose company at dinner I have so enjoyed, this evening,
- **Consumers Credit Union** – who are also production sponsors for Kiss Me Kate – *4 guests of Consumers will be in attendance*
- **Onstaff USA** (not attending)

And our Supporting Sponsors this evening are:

- **Jaqua Realtors** – Dan and Dawn Jaqua are **here with us**.
- **Kalsee Credit Union** –Robert Brown is in attendance.
- **Miller Johnson Attorneys** -
- **Metro Toyota on Stadium** – thank you Jeff Denooyer

And you need to know that all of this evening's wonderful food was donated by our Restaurant Sponsors:

- Hors D'oeuvres provided by **Epic Bistro and the Millennium Restaurant Group**
- Dinner provided and served by **Oakwood Bistro** (owner & chef Ryan Soule is in attendance) and **Full City Café** (owner and chef Keith and Lisa Langdon are in attendance)
- Wine provided by **The Wine Loft** and **Millennium Restaurant Group**
- After Party desserts are being provided by **Amy's Cakes, The Beacon Club, D&W Fresh Market, Irving's Market and the Garden Gate Café.**

And finally, I'd like to welcome and thank:

- **The Rose Street Group at Morgan Stanley.** Here with us tonight are Financial Advisors Scott Hewitt, Vince Iannelli, and Steve Mucci.

Please join me in a round of applause for all of these wonderful patrons of the Western Michigan University Theatre.

We'll be having dessert and coffee after the production. Please enjoy yourselves. I'm hoping to hear you at least humming "Brush Up Your Shakespeare" when we reconvene.

Thank you.